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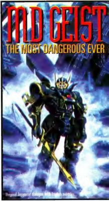
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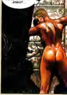
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written by Peggy Gordon. Illustrated by Bill Sienkiewicz

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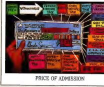
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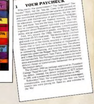

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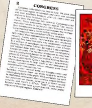

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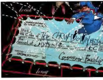
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PERKING UP

5 RUBBERGATE

Each year, taxpayers spend $466 million to operate the Senate and $709 million to operate the House of Representatives. We also paid for a convenience that was openly hosted in a corner of the Capitol for almost a century: The House Bank, a financial institution with an unusual set of provisions. For example, the bank offered no interest and lax-time "deposit fund" that covered overdrafts and allowed 30 days for repayment. Ordinary citizens are charged $10 to $25 for overdrafts by their banks, but when our Congressmen bounced checks, they received what amounted to automatic loans. These transactions might actually be illegal under U.S. Banking Law, but Congress, conveniently, makes its own rules.

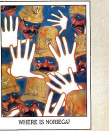
By the end of 1990, the General Accounting Office recorded more than 8,000 bounced checks. Some 250 current and former Representatives owe more than $300,000 for meals and catering services from Capitol restaurants alone. More than $47,000 worth of bills date back as far as 1986. Much of that debt was traced to organizations for whom our Representatives had arranged receptions and functions. They never paid, and neither did the host Congressmen. To prevent an outcry like that created by the 1989 50-percent midnight pay raise, Speaker Thomas Foley (D-WA) closed the House Bank and announced that the House Ethics Committee, chaired by check-bouncer Louis Stokes (D-OH), would investigate. Although Congress is not accountable under the Freedom of Information Act, political pressure finally forced full disclosure of 303 check-bouncers. Who might lose their coveted jobs as of November?

12 YO, MANUEL!

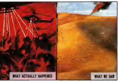
United States forces invaded Panama in December 1989 to overthrow the government of General Manuel Noriega, who was captured, brought to America, and held without bail for more than 20 months to stand trial on a 12-count indictment of narcotics smuggling and racketeering. Noriega was convicted on eight counts and faces up to 145 years in prison and a fine as large as $1,145,000. Noriega's capture was a military operation—a legally controversial action. With so much pre-trial material—including rumors of Noriega's long-standing relationship with the CIA, Oliver North, and George Bush—this should have been the trial of the decade. So where was it?

The trial began in late September 1991. The result of a billion-dollar war, it has been relegated to minor wire-service accounts buried in the back pages of newspapers. Why? Because Noriega was on the CIA payroll and a reputed "tool" of other U.S. government agencies for more than 20 years? Because he trafficked guns with the suspected aid of Oliver North, for the training and resupplying of the U.S.-backed contras? Because he profited from his drug operation with the rumored help of CIA pilots who flew Noriega's planes to pay for contra guns?

When George Bush ran for President in 1988, questions persisted about how much he knew as CIA Director and Vice President. Did he look the other way at Noriega's "activities" until Fidel Castro and Noriega began to do business? Was that the real reason for our invasion? Will we ever know? Before you throw away your newspapers, check these back pages!



WHERE IS NORIEGA?



WHERE'S THE WAR?

17 MILITARY MIGHT

The Vietnam "experience" shocked our collective innocence about war. We were exposed to film footage of returning body bags, Napalm victims, massive physical destruction, and uncensored conversations with depressed and disgruntled soldiers. We saw what we were paying for, and support for the war gradually eroded.

No one was immune to the bitter exposé, including the Pentagon, which decided that America could go to war only so long as it didn't look like war. Henceforth, small groups of reporters would be taken into the field under the constant eye of military public affairs officers; no interviews with soldiers would be held unchaperoned. Reagan's Grenada invasion, Bush's Panama action, and Operation Desert Storm were all "wars" we barely saw.

Several print reporters tried working outside of these Pentagon pools and were arrested. Only ABC crews wisely traveled with Saudi and Egyptian forces during the Gulf War—and managed to capture scenes of Iraqi desertions, bombing missions, and casualties at the front. In Panama, we never saw the thousands left homeless, or the mass graves where hundreds of Panamanians—"collateral damage"—were buried. Officials argued that the military must control the flow of information to confuse the enemy. But consider the words of a Pentagon official commenting on why U.S. military censors refused to release video footage of Iraqi soldiers being sliced in half by helicopter cannon fire: "If we let people see that kind of thing, there would never again be any war."

28 ABU NIDAL & PALS

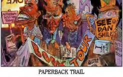
Ronald Reagan said we would never bargain with terrorists or their sponsor nations. But a cadre of unelected officials in the CIA and the National Security Council authorized arms sales to Iran. The profits were used to supply the Nicaraguan contras, an action prohibited by the Boland Amendment. Oliver North, one of the chief engineers of Iran-contra, states in his autobiography *Under Fire*, that "Reagan knew everything." Were those weapons built by American taxpayer money? Were those our profits?

In the Pan Am 103 tragedy, 270 lives were lost to a terrorist bomb that exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. George Bush avoided pointing an accusatory finger at Syria, a known terrorist state, because Syria is an essential cog in his New World Order.

Terrorist Abu Nidal masterminded bombings of airports, killing innocent people. But now sponsored by Saudi Arabia, America's "friend," he was able to slip into a Boston hospital in Summer 1991 for an operation.

Secretary of State James Baker instructed U.S. Ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie to tell Saddam Hussein that "we have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait," when CIA satellite photos showed tens of thousands of Iraqi troops massing on the Kuwaiti border. Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY) also reassured Hussein, claiming that Iraq's problems were with the American press, not the U.S. government. The Gulf War cost an estimated $60 billion and thousands of lives.

How many more miscalculations, acts of appeasement, and illegal operations can we afford?



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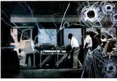


LUBY'S LUNCHTIME

31 GUN LOBBY

On a normal Wednesday in October 1991, a lunchtime crowd filled Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen, Texas, when a Ford Ranger pickup drove straight through the restaurant's plate-glass window. Many rushed to the driver's aid only to be shot down by his two semi-automatic pistols – a Glock 17 and a Ruger P-89. In 10 minutes, he murdered 23 people, pausing only to pack fresh clips into his guns. He finally killed himself after suffering four gunshot wounds inflicted by arriving police.

It was the worst mass murder in U.S. history. The killer was George Hennard, who had been thrown out of the Merchant Marines in 1989 for marijuana possession. He also had a history of run-ins with police for disturbing local women. But he had no trouble getting his weapons. He purchased them by filling out a brief Federal form requiring no background checks or waiting periods.

The following week, Congress voted 247 to 177 to defeat a measure that would ban 13 different assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips. The horror of 23 dead did not deter the powerful lobbying efforts of the National Rifle Association, which organized its 2.5 million members in a campaign to defeat the gun control measure. President Bush opposed the law, claiming it is impossible to "legislate behavior."

But in the words of Representative Chet Edwards (D-Tx), a former gun control opponent whose district includes Killeen, "Suddenly the old arguments ring hollow that guns don't kill people, people do."

36 THAT'S ALL, FOLKS

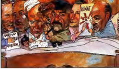
The cameras were poised and ready at the entrance of the Barnes & Noble bookstore. It had been advertised for weeks that former President Bush, former First Lady Barbara, former Vice President Dan Quayle and his wife Marilyn would each be signing copies of their respective books.

Bush's autobiography, *Desert Storm, Dammit!*, is now in paperback after a disappointing three days on the fringes of the bestseller lists. Barbara's lovely cookbook (including accessory tips), *Petticoats, Pies, and Pearls*, is an interesting item. Dan Quayle's charming coloring book, *See Dan Smile*, is a favorite among toddlers. And Marilyn's new work of fiction, *Madame President*, is a bizarre story of a brilliant but misunderstood Vice Presidential wife who, through a series of unbelievable circumstantial deaths, becomes the first woman in the Oval Office.

Although these books were all published at different times, their agents decided that a combined signing might help individual sales. So it was sad to see that the expected crowd actually consisted of only a dozen people. The store owners were so desperate, they pulled out some old cardboard stand-ups of Oliver North hoping passersby might want to pose alongside. These items were so popular in 1987 – but this is 1997, and no one even remembers Oliver North!

Then the squabbling and shoving began at the book table when the four former luminaries had to vacate and make room for Kitty Kelly. She's written an unauthorized autobiography, and sales are poor.

That's all, folks.



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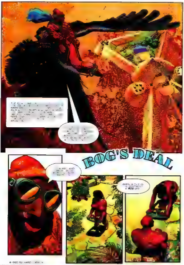
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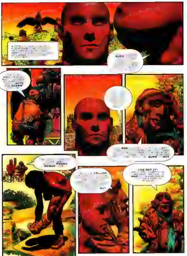
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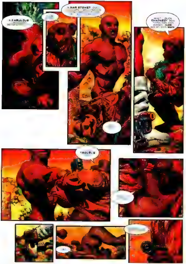
A FABULOUS
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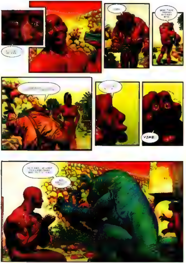
CHAINED!
MAN
MAN
TROUBLE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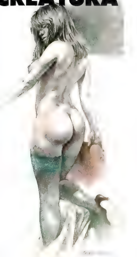

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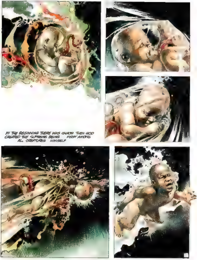
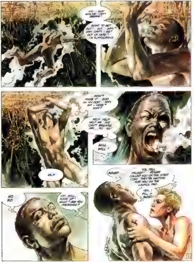
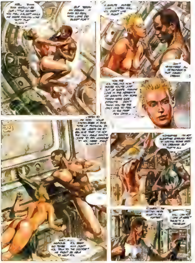
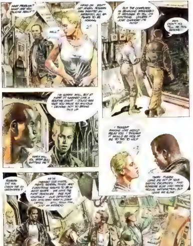
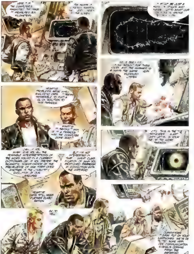
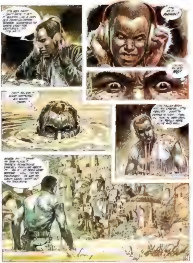

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS CHAOS. THEN GOD CREATED THE SUPREME BEING. FIRST AMONG ALL CREATURES: HIMSELF.

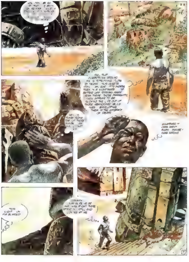

AIR... MUST HAVE AIR. I CAN'T BREATHE!
WANT TO GET OUT! OUT... WHY? WHY CAN'T I GET OUT OF HERE?! I'M SUFFOCATING
WON'T MAKE IT... GOD OH MY GOD! WHY AM I HERE? WHY?
HELP! HELP! HELP ME! AIR... CAN'T BREATHE. AIR... NO! NO!
WILL WILL!
HELP
NO NO.
HEY, WILL, WAKE UP! WHAT? ARE YOU DREAMING?
WHAT
YOU FELL ASLEEP! ROGER CALLED YOU ON THE INTER-COM. THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU ON THE LAUNCH PAD.
YES, I FELL ASLEEP!

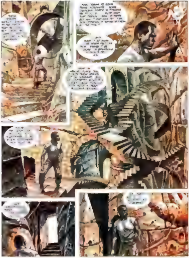

WELL, TOMMY THIS SHOULD BE OUR LITTLE SECRET. YOU FELL ASLEEP WHILE WE WERE MAKING LOVE "AFTER THE FLIGHT"
BUT TERRY, IN MY DREAM... IT WAS SO REAL. HOW LONG DID I SLEEP FOR?
A MINUTE, MAYBE TWO. LISTEN, YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY... ALL I REMEMBER IS THAT WEIRD DREAM
HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW? MAYBE YOU'RE JUST OUT OF SHAPE. MAKING LOVE IN THE ABSENCE OF GRAVITY CAN SOMETIMES HAVE SIDE EFFECTS. DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE TO FEEL IT IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS...
LISTEN TO ME NOW... YOUR KNOWLEDGE IN THIS TYPE OF PHYSICAL ED... LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY MALE WHO'S COME TO [illegible]
NOWADAYS I'M NOT SLEEPING ENOUGH AND I'M HAVING SOME VERY ODD DREAMS. BUT THAT'S ALL
WAIT A... SERIOUS... YOU SEEM SO TENSE. WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO THE DOCTOR? HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
I KNOW THE [illegible] WHAT'S THE MATTER
BILL, CAN YOU COME UP HERE? THERE'S A PROBLEM

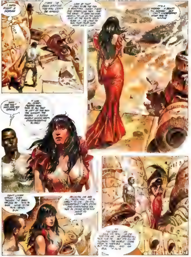

WHAT PROBLEM? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL?
HANG ON DON'T GET ANGRY. ROGERS HAS SIGHTED AN ASTEROID, ALL APPEARS TO BE NORMAL
BUT THE COMPUTER IS BEHAVING STRANGELY. IT REFUSES TO TELL US ANYTHING. UNLESS IT JUST CHANGED ITS MIND
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BEFORE
I'M SORRY WILL, BUT AT FIRST IT SEEMED LIKE A ROUTINE EVENT. I COULD SEE THAT YOU WERE SO ANXIOUS I DECIDED NOT TO BRING THIS UP
WHEN WILL YOU STOP BULLSHITTING ME?
I THOUGHT MAKING LOVE WOULD RELAX YOU. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE OF ME TO TRY TO HELP YOU
TERRY, PLEASE LEAVE ME OUT OF YOUR SEXUAL ESCAPADES. FIND SOMEONE ELSE WHO NEEDS SEXUAL SATISFACTION, BUT LEAVE ME ALONE
ROGERS DID YOU CHECK THE CO ORDINATES?
WE'VE CHECKED OUR INSTRUMENTS SEVERAL TIMES AND EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE. WE HAVE THE FIRST READINGS. SEE FOR YOURSELF. OUR DETECTOR HAS ANALYZED THEM IN GREAT DETAIL. STILL, LOOK LIKE JUST AN ASTEROID

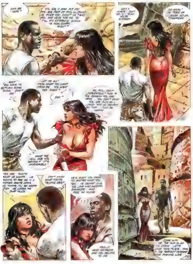

HERE IT IS THE COMPUTER'S MAGNIFIED THE MAP. IT MEASURES SIX KILOMETERS
NEGATIVE. PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN ANALYZING DATA. IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A QUICK SOLUTION TO THIS PARADOX
RIGHT'S "PARADOX." WHY IS IT A PARADOX? HAS THE COMPUTER GONE MAD?
CAN I ... YOU ... GIVE YOU ALL THE POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE WORD FOUND IN A CURRENT DICTIONARY, OR IF YOU PREFER THE SEMANTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PREVALENCE OF ONE FORM OVER ANOTHER IN THE LINGUISTIC EVOLUTION OF OUR LANGUAGE
BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT. I WANT CLARIFICATION OF WHY YOU MENTIONED PARADOX IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASTEROID
NEGATIVE. DATA STILL NEEDS FURTHER CLARIFICATION
AND THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME. VERY PUZZLED
THIS IS THE COMMANDER. I WANT ... IN YOUR USE OF THE WORD PARADOX
GO TO HELL
COMMANDER, PLEASE PUT ON YOUR EARPHONES. WE'RE ... SOME VERY ODD COMMUNICATION SIGNALS COMING FROM THE ASTEROID

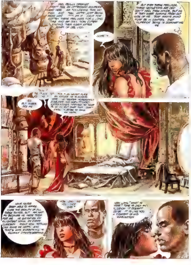

IT'S VERY FAINT. I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT... SOUNDS LIKE A VERY OLD COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. SOMETHING NO ONE'S USED FOR CENTURIES... IT'S AS...
IT'S AS IF... AHHHH!
OH NO... OH GOD... NO!
CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED... AM I GOING CRAZY?
I'VE FALLEN BACK INTO MY DREAM... IT'S ABSURD... WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT I FEEL ALL THIS IS VERY REAL. I'M REALLY HERE, ALIVE AND WELL.
WHERE AM I? WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THERE'S SOMETHING VAGUELY FAMILIAR ABOUT IT. AS IF I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE... HELL, I'M SO CONFUSED! I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN... SORT OUT MY THOUGHTS.

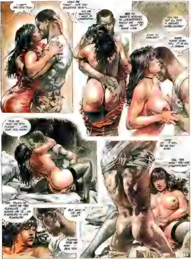

YES, THAT EVERYTHING AROUND ME IS PETRIFYING, CLOSE TO DEATH. THIS VEGETATION... MY GOD, IT'S WORSE THAN A NIGHTMARE. I'D BETTER OFF STAYING AWAY FROM THERE. THOSE PARASITIC VINES APPEAR TO BE SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF THOSE ABANDONED BUILDINGS, ENVELOPING THEM IN THE EMBRACE OF DEATH.
WHATEVER IT WAS WENT AWAY. MAYBE I WAS WRONG.
THIS LIGHT... I'M BLINDED!
AND LOOKING AT ME
7

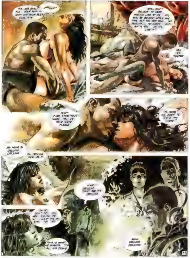


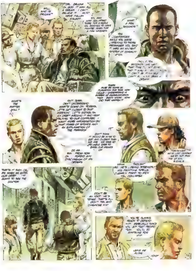

I WAS RIGHT. A WOMAN
COME. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. DON'T BE AFRAID.
LOOK AT THAT. IT USED TO BE THE SEA. A BEAUTIFUL, CLEAR CLEAR AND SPARKLING SEA. AND THE SAND. IT WAS SO WONDERFUL TO LIE ON THE SAND AND LET THE SUN'S RAYS SOAK IT. HE USED TO SAY THAT THAT WAS WHAT WE'D LOSE
IT'S A WOMAN. A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE IS SAYING
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IT HAS ALL CHANGED NOW. THIS IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE SEA. THE SWAMP, THE FEVERS. A PUTRID WORLD WHICH KEEPS DISINTEGRATING SLOWLY
DON'T UNDERSTAND. EVEN THOUGH THE BABY BELONGS TO THIS HERE. HAVE TO FIND THIS
BECAUSE WE ARE ALL INSIDE YOU. HE IS ABOUT TO DIE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? HE'S DYING AND EVERYTHING YOU SEE IS DYING WITH HIM. WANT TO LEAVE
SO MY LOVE. MY SAID HE DID THIS FOR ME. HE CREATED ALL THIS FOR ME. BUT IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION. THE WORLD COMES FROM HIS MEMORIES. BUT I'M REAL. AND I AM REAL. I'M ALIVE

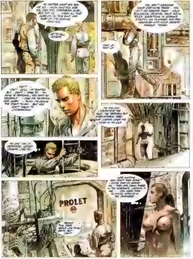

WHY AM I HERE?
YOU ARE A MAN. BUT YOU TOO ARE PART OF THIS ILLUSION! HE MADE YOU, DIDN'T HE? AND YOU ARE HERE FOR ME TO FILL MY EXISTENCE WHICH IS NOW EMPTY RIGHT?
WAIT A MINUTE DON'T SAY IT AGAIN YOU'RE POSSESSED
GO AWAY! I'M TIRED OF ILLUSION SO GO, DISAPPEAR
WAIT YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN SOME THING. DON'T GO!
LET ME GO! I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FROM ME. YOU WANT SEX! RIGHT?
SEX?
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND? THIS IS THE REASON YOU ARE HERE. YOU DON'T EXIST. YOU ARE ONLY AN ILLUSION THAT HE CREATED SO THAT I COULD BE HAPPY
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S INCREDIBLE!
YES HIM. THAT'S RIGHT HE WANTS. HE WANTS TO SEE ME IN ANOTHER MAN'S ARMS. HE THINKS I'LL BE HAPPY THEN. HE LOVES ME THAT MUCH
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
HE'S RIGHT YOU KNOW. NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, HE CANNOT GIVE ME LOVE AND WARMTH ANYMORE AND I FEEL SO ALONE
(?)
I REALLY NEED SOMEONE AND YOU BELONG TO ME
COME WITH ME. THE SUN IS GOING DOWN. LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE.. THIS IS THE PERFECT MOMENT FOR MAKING LOVE

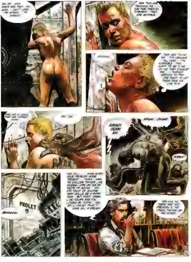

I FEEL REALLY STRANGE. I DON'T FEEL AS OPPRESSED ANYMORE, AND HERE I AM FOLLOWING THIS ODD MAN AND I FEEL HAPPY JUST BEING NEAR HER. IT'S AS IF I HAVE FORGOTTEN THESE FEELINGS FOR A LONG TIME AND AM ONLY NOW EXPERIENCING THEM AGAIN AFTER YEARS OF OBLIVION.
COME IN.
BUT EVEN THESE FEELINGS, THESE SENSATIONS ARE ODD. I DON'T FEEL THEM INSIDE, BUT AS IF THEY WERE COMING FROM OUTSIDE OF ME. THAT MAN'S MIND MUST BE IN CONTROL. THAT SUPERIOR BEING IS DOMINATING ME.
SO... BUT WHERE ARE WE?
THIS IS MY SECRET PLACE, MY REFUGE. [illegible] IN ORDER TO MAKE ME HAPPY.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF ALL THESE THINGS, BUT I AM HAPPY BECAUSE HE MADE THEM FOR ME. HE SATISFIES MY SLIGHTEST WISH, MY EVERY CURIOSITY. RIGHT NOW NOTHING CAN MAKE ME HAPPY, AND THAT'S WHY EVERYTHING IS SLOWLY DISINTEGRATING.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
HOW LONG? WHAT IS TIME? TIME IS ONLY AN ILLUSION. IT DOESN'T EXIST. IT IS LIKE YOU, A FIGMENT OF HIS IMAGINATION.

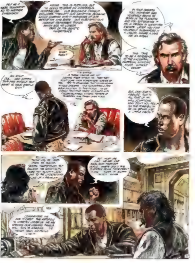

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
HOLD ME TIGHT. ARE YOU ENJOYING THIS?...
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND
NO, NO THERE'S NOTHING TO UNDERSTAND. TOUCH ME. FEEL ME. WANT ME. MAKE LOVE
YES, YES BUT ALL THIS IS ABSURD. UNBELIEVABLE!
WHAT IS ABSURD?
EVERYTHING! EVEN YOU. IT IS ALL A DREAM
TAKE ME. TAKE ME NOW. PLEASE... LOVE THAT YOU KNOW
OKAY OK... IT WILL BE AS YOU WISH
YES, YES NOW! YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT!
YES! TOUCH ME. MAKE ME FEEL PLEASURE. HE WANTS ME TO... MY PLEASURE IS HIS PLEASURE
BUT WHO IS HE BY GOD?
PLEASE TAKE ME NOW. I BEG YOU.

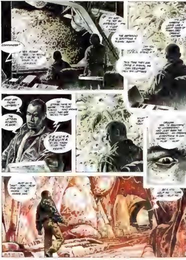

DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME. TELL ME YOUR NAME PLEASE
MY NAME IS DELILAH DELILAH
OH, DELILAH
THIS IS WHAT WE WANTED ALL WE DONE

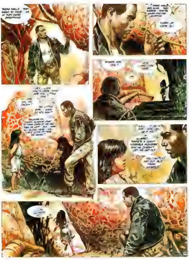

WELL, WHAT IS DRUKNA?
DR. DRUKNA... OH GOD IT WAS ALL A DREAM. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP.
YOU MAY HAVE COLLAPSED THERE FOR A WHILE. YOU SEEMED TO HAVE FAINTED AWAY FOR A FEW SECONDS.
WHAT? A FEW SECONDS?
YES COMMANDER. WHILE YOU WERE LISTENING TO THEIR MESSAGES YOU SAID IT WAS AN ANCIENT SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION.
ONLY A FEW SECONDS. YOU SAY THAT THE [illegible] THAT [illegible] IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE [illegible] BEEN A DREAM.
THERE MUST BE SOME EXPLANATION FOR THIS. HOW COULD I UNDERSTAND A SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION THEY DON'T KNOW. HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WILL?
BUT THERE... CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, ROGERS. LET'S GET CLOSER TO THAT ASTEROID. LET'S ESTABLISH AN ORBIT AROUND IT AND KEEP TALKING TO OUR COMPUTER. I WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THAT MASS OF STONES AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE PARADOX.
BUT... DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO GET ANY CLOSER THAN WE ARE. WE HAVE NO RELIABLE DATA TO BASE OUR MOVES ON.
DO AS I SAY. FROM NOW ON, FORBID ANY DISCUSSION OF MY ORDERS.
[illegible] LOST CONTACT [illegible]
WHAT I THOUGHT. SO HE'S LOSING STRENGTH. HIS FAINTING SPELLS CLEARLY POINT TO MENTAL COLLAPSE.
THAT'S IT THEN. CALL ME WHEN WE ENTER OUR ORBIT. I'M GOING TO SEE THE DOCTOR.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT. HE'S TENSE. THAT'S ALL. DON'T TRY AND DIAGNOSE HIM.
YOU'RE ALWAYS READY TO DEFEND HIM. ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU GOT THAT PROMOTION. YOU'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
IDIOT.

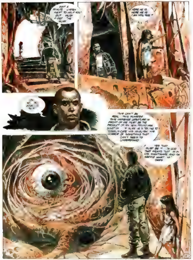

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY OR DO... KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU CAN FOOL EVERYBODY ELSE, BUT NOT ME... KNOW ALL THAT GOES ON IN THIS SHIP AND MOST OF IT'S COMING FROM YOU
GO TO HELL, ROGERS
YOU CAN'T OVERCOME YOUR INSTINCTS TERRY. YOU CAN'T GO AGAINST THEM... YOUR BIOLOGICAL ORIGINS, YOUR SOCIAL ROLES. EVERYTHING IS WORKING EXACTLY AS PLANNED AND PRE-ARRANGED INTO YOUR GENETIC MAKEUP, TERRY
SHUT UP SHUT UP
...CAN'T... CAN'T. WELL, I'M TEMPTED, BUT CAN'T. I NEED TO... MY MIND IS RATIONAL, YOU SAID SO YOURSELF... I USE MY MUTATION FOR WORK... I THINK I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING... BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND.
NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE NEED, THE TERRIBLE BUT ADMIRABLE NEED THAT COMES OVER ME DEEP IN MY GUT
NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND EXCEPT OTHERS LIKE ME
PROLET
BEHIND THIS DOOR... WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK, BUT CAN'T
WE'RE WAITING. WHY DON'T THEY COME? I KNOW THEY'VE HEARD ME. THEY ARE DOWN THERE IN THE SHADOWS, LOOKING AT ME... CAN HEAR THEM SLINKING AROUND IN THE DARKNESS

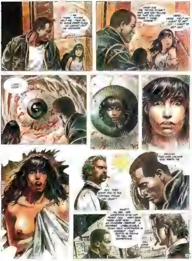

OH, NO HOW MANY ARE THEY OH GOD, CAN'T LOOK I'M AFRAID I'M AFRAID
NOW THEY ARE TOUCHING ME CAN FEEL THEIR BREATH THEY ARE ANIMALS
AHHHHH
THEY ARE TAKING ME IT'S OBSCENE ALL OVER IT'S HORRIBLE THEY WANT TO BE IN ME OH NO THEY DISGUST ME I TURNED AROUND TO HAVE THEM TO LET THEM TAKE ME LIKE THIS
THEY ARE A WILD THEY ARE TURNED AHHH
OH OH
ARGH OHGR
AAHHH OUHH AH.
ARGH!
PROLET 9
AHHHHHH
YES WILL I HAVE GIVEN YOUR PROBLEM SOME THOUGHT. THINK HAVE TO EXCLUDE THINGS LIKE ENERGY LOSS OR SIDE EFFECTS OF AGING. YOU DID FAINT OF COURSE THAT COULD BE A SYMPTOM BUT MOST VISIONS LIKE YOURS ARE FOLLOWED BY COMA. YOU SEE I INSIST THAT IT WAS ALL A DREAM
YES AND NO THERE ARE NOT DREAMS, IT'S THE UNREAL HOUSE OF THE WORD

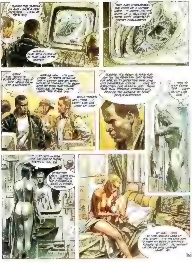

JUST AS IF WE WERE TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER DIMENSION
HMMM... THIS IS PUZZLING, BUT I'M GOING TO STATE MY HYPOTHESIS NONETHELESS... OUR BIOLOGICAL MAKEUP EVOLVED "PROLET", OUR GENETICAL BAGGAGE WHICH CARRIED WITH IT MEMORIES OF OUR GESTATION AND BIRTH... OUR SUBCONSCIOUS CANNOT REMEMBER THINGS WHICH ARE NO LONGER PART OF ITS GENETIC INHERITANCE
WHAT THEN?
IN YOUR DREAMS YOU, HOWEVER, SEE YOURSELF BEING RE-BORN IN THE PLACENTA AND YOU EXPERIENCE IT AS A PRISON IN WHICH YOU ESCAPE. LATER YOU FIND YOURSELF SUBMERGED IN A LIQUID, MAYBE A LAKE OR AN OCEAN
THIS I TAKE TO BE A REFERENCE TO THE ANCESTRAL MATERNAL AMNIOTIC FLUID WITHOUT DOUBT
ALL RIGHT DOC... I'D GOTTEN THIS FAR MYSELF. BUT WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION?
IT'S SIMPLE. IF THESE VISIONS ARE NOT COMING FROM WITHIN YOU... THEY THEN MUST COME FROM SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF YOU... TRY TO REMEMBER THAT YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR DREAMS... SHE SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THIS RIDDLE... AN UNKNOWN COGNITIVE FORCE, ENDOWED WITH OVERWHELMINGLY STRONG POWERS OF SUGGESTION, HAS TAKEN OVER YOUR MIND
BUT, DOC, THAT'S ABSURD. THAT'S ALL PART OF MY HALLUCINATIONS. WHY DON'T YOU FOCUS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MY BEING JUST A LITTLE CRAZY?
YOU WILL... I'D THINK YOU'RE CRAZY... EVEN IF MY THEORY SEEMS FAR-FETCHED, BUT BELIEVE ME, THE RATIONAL DOES NOT ALWAYS LEAD ONE TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF A PROBLEM
BUT MOST LIKE... DOC, WE ARE JUST YEARS AWAY FROM OUR WORLD. WHERE COULD THIS COSMIC BEING COME FROM?
YES
COMMANDER, WE ARE IN ORBIT. THE ASTEROID IS DIRECTLY UNDER US. WE ARE OPENING OUR VIEWING PANELS... WELL, THIS IS AMAZING... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT

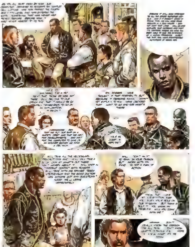

COMMANDER?
YES, ROGER ... I'M TRYING TO [illegible] WHAT IS HAPPENING
MY GOD ... IT'S NOT AN ASTEROID ... IT'S A GIANT MASS
THE ASTEROID IS EMITTING A SIGNAL AGAIN
IT'S AN ASTEROID ... LOOKS LIKE A GIANT MASS OF FOSSILIZED ORGANIC MATTER
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND IT?
THIS TIME THEY ARE USING A SIGNAL WE CAN DECIPHER ... ONLY SIX LETTERS
WHAT ARE THOSE LETTERS?
THE LETTERS, ROGER, PLEASE
IF ... LETTERS HAVE NO SENSE ... IT'S CONFUSING ... WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO SAY
DRUUNA DRUUNA ... YOU KNOW ... JUST THAT NAME?
WHAT? ... BUT ... WHY
DRUUNA ... YES, I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND ... I HAD JUST SEEN THE ASTEROID ... IN DREAMS ... EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED ... NOW I MUST ... MUST
MUST GO TO "HIM" ... NOW ... MUST FIND OUT ... "HE" KNOWS HIM
BEA, YOU HELP ME ... COME HERE ... HELP ME

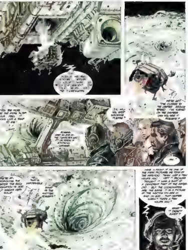

THESE WALLS... THEY SEEM TO MOVE AS IF THEY WERE BREATHING
THESE WALLS ARE ALIVE... THEY VIBRATE, THEY'RE WARM AND ... PULSATING
HURRY UP, COME ON!
WHERE ARE YOU?
HEY, LOOK WHO'S HERE. WHO ARE YOU, LITTLE ONE?
ARE YOU MY DADDY?
NO LITTLE GIRL. WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE MY DADDY ALWAYS USED TO TAKE CARE OF ME AND THEN HE LEFT AND I WAS ALL ALONE HERE. YOU HAVE COME TO TAKE ME AWAY.
I'M SCARED. THERE'S A GIANT HORRIBLE MONSTER AND HE DOESN'T LET ME GET OUT.
YOU CAN'T GET OUT, BUT FROM WHERE?

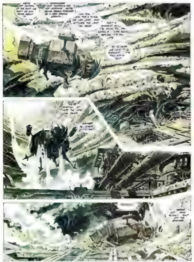

WAIT A MINUTE. LISTEN. I WANT TO HELP YOU! BUT WHY... "HE" MUST...
HERE HE IS HERE HE IS CAN YOU SEE?
THIS CAN'T BE REAL. THIS MONSTER THIS IMMENSE CREATURE IN FRONT OF ME MUST BE THE PRODUCT OF MY NEW FOUND ... SITUATION. I'M SURE HE'S TRYING TO COMMUNICATE HIS ANGUISH, HIS HORROR OF SOMETHING THAT CAN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND
YES THAT MUST BE IT. OH GOD THAT MEANS THAT I'M IN HIS NIGHTMARE AND I'M SEEING WHAT HE SEES.

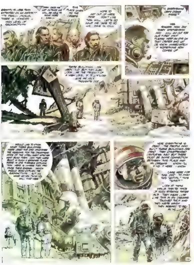

I AM ... THERE ... PLEASE HELP ME ... TAKE ME TO SOME OTHER PLACE ... HE CANNOT HELP ME ANYMORE
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU ARE "THERE"? THERE WHERE?
HERE, HERE ... HELP ME! I WANT TO GET OUT! I WANT TO GET OUT!
LOOK LOOK
[illegible] THAT WAS [illegible] SHE NEEDS ME
HEY, THEY WANT YOU IN THE CONTROL ROOM. YOU OKAY?
WHAT? OH, YES ... YES. SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED, DOC ... I WAS BACK THERE JUST NOW ... SAW AN INHUMAN CREATURE ... A MONSTER ... UNBELIEVABLE ... I THINK YOUR HYPOTHESIS IS CORRECT ... THAT ENTITY IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
[illegible]
[illegible]
I'LL COME QUICKLY

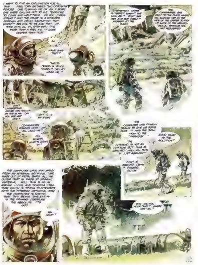

I TURNED THE CAMERA ON AND I SHOT A FEW PICTURES. LOOK AT THIS ONE
HMMMM. GIVE ME A CLOSE UP OF THAT HOLE IN THE CENTER
THAT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE WORK OF A HUMAN HAND. IT LOOKS LIKE THE RUINS OF A BUILDING OF SOME SORT CREATED BY HUMAN INTELLIGENCE
GOOD. THIS TENDS TO SUPPORT MY THESIS. ANY NEWS FROM OUR COMPUTER?
NOTHING NEW. IT'S CONFUSED. IT KEEPS ON SAYING THAT IT CANNOT GIVE ANY EXPLANATION OF "PARADOX". I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT YOU ARE DELIRIOUS AS WELL. LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE NOW.
WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THIS!
ROGERS, YOU SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN THE REASONS THAT PUSHED OUR SPECIES TO UNDERTAKE THIS LONG AND DANGEROUS VOYAGE. I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN OUR MISSION AND I THINK THAT THIS STRANGE ASTEROID WILL PROVIDE THE ANSWER TO SOME OF OUR QUESTIONS!
I HAVE TO STOP DOING THIS. I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
IT JUST GETS WORSE. THE SIN ONE OF THOSE BRUTAL [illegible]
ATTENTION CREW. THERE WILL BE A MEETING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM IN FIFTEEN MINUTES
OH GOD. I HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER DOSE OF THIS STUFF. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP MY BODY IN BALANCE. ROGERS IS RIGHT. NO AMOUNT OF DRUGS WILL CHANGE WHAT I AM.

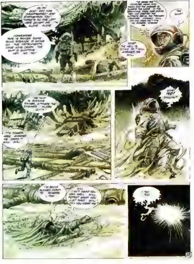

AS YOU ALL MUST KNOW BY NOW, ZED COMPUTER, [illegible] TO ACCOMPANY [illegible] HAS NOW PASSED THE FOURTH AND FIFTH LEVEL AND HAS ENTERED THE SIXTH. SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE. BEFORE NOW, IT HAD NEVER NEEDED TO DO THIS.
[illegible] A HUMAN PRESENCE [illegible]
[illegible] DANGEROUS TO GO ON AN EXPLORATION [illegible]
MR. ROBERTS HAVE [illegible] BECAUSE [illegible] TO YOU, HAVE DECIDED THAT I WANT TO GO AND SEE WHAT'S THERE
COMMANDER, [illegible] FOR DEVELOPMENTS... AND WAIT FOR THE COMPUTER TO GIVE US AN ANSWER BEFORE WE TAKE A DECISION
YOURS IS JUST A REFUSAL?
WE'LL TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS AND WE'LL ONLY TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT'S OUT THERE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'LL KEEP IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH ROBERTS. I'LL TAKE WITH ME RANGER TERRY STEPHENSON AND THE GOOD DOCTOR. HAS ANYONE GOT ANY QUESTIONS? GOOD. WE'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT [illegible] I'M NOT A MAN OF ACTION
[illegible] YOUR ROLE ON OUR MISSION [illegible] WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
[illegible] DON'T REALLY KNOW THE REASON [illegible]

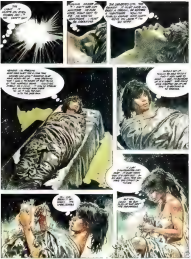

YES, THE MORE WE SEE THE MORE SUSPICIOUS I FEEL. IT LOOKS LIKE A TRAP TO ME!
WILL YOU STOP SMOKING, PLEASE?
WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE CRATER. REDUCE SPEED. I'VE TURNED ON THE CAMERA. CAN YOU SEE IT, ROBBINS?
ROBBINS, KEEP AN EYE ON THE COMPUTER AND LET US KNOW IF ANYTHING CHANGES
HM
WE'RE APPROACHING THE CRATER. THE ROCK FORMATION IS ODD BUT SEEMS VERY SOLID
WELL... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
WHAT IS THE MATTER, ROBBINS?
I HAVE IN FRONT OF ME ONE OF THE FIRST PICTURES WE TOOK OF THE ASTEROID... TAKEN JUST A FEW HOURS AGO. I KEPT IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS A SHOT OF A DIFFERENT PART OF THE ASTEROID... BUT THE COORDINATES ARE THE SAME. IT IS A PICTURE OF THE SECTOR YOU ARE IN AND, OH GOD... THAT CRATER WASN'T THERE A FEW HOURS AGO.
WHAT? IT DIDN'T EXIST?

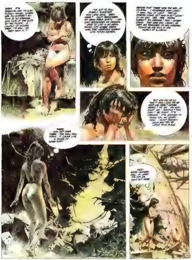

WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL OF THE SHIP. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
COMMANDER, OUR CONTROLS ARE NOT WORKING. WE'RE BEING DRAWN FORWARD BY A HIGH GRAVITY
CAN YOU LOOK FOR A PLACE WE CAN LAND AND ACTIVATE THE LANDING GEAR
LANDING AS ... THE LANDING GEAR
WATCH OUT ...

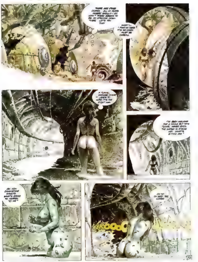

GRAVITY IS LESS THAN EXPECTED ON AN ASTEROID. IT'S REALLY UNUSUAL. THERE IS HOWEVER A HIGH LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVITY
ONLY ONCE WE GET OUTSIDE WE WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW MORE. GARY...
THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS
HOPE TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST. DON'T LIKE THIS, WILL. LET'S DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO AND LEAVE QUICKLY
IS EVERYTHING OKAY DOWN THERE?
YES ROGERS. NOW DOC, TERRY, STEPHENSON AND I WILL GO OUT FOR OUR FIRST VISIT. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON THAT CRATER AND LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF SOMETHING NEW COMES UP
THESE BUILDINGS LOOK ANCIENT BUT THEY ALSO LOOK LIKE THE PRODUCT OF A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY. GIVE ME YOUR THOUGHTS DOC
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THESE BUILDINGS WERE USED FOR AND WHETHER THE REASONS FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE INTELLIGENT SPECIES WHO BUILT THEM... WHY THEY WERE BUILT IN SUCH A STRANGE PLACE. MAYBE IS ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION. HERE IS WHERE THEY PRODUCED THEIR ENERGY, WHICH WOULD ALSO EXPLAIN THE RADIOACTIVITY. BUT ... WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WILL FIND HERE
HERE EVERYTHING IS DEAD. THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THESE BUILDINGS ARE DEAD. THEY DISAPPEARED CENTURIES AGO BUT THERE MUST BE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS PLACE AND MY DREAMS. I KNOW I'LL FIND IT HERE. I KNOW
CAME HERE FOR THIS DOC. TO FIND THIS "ENTITY," THIS "SPIRIT."
LOOK AT THESE WALLS. THEY'RE MADE OF SUCH STRANGE MATERIALS. THEY WERE JUST LIKE THIS IN MY DREAMS. TOUCHED THEM AND THEY WERE WARM. THEY SEEMED TO BE ALIVE


I WANT TO FIND AN EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS ... I FEEL TORN BETWEEN TWO OPPOSING FORCES ... ONE PUSHING ME ON AS IF SOME ONE WERE CALLING OUT TO ME "TERRIFIED TO COME AND HELP THEM" ... DO YOU UNDERSTAND? AND THE OTHER IS A STRANGE FOREIGN AND CRUEL SENSATION THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO ME AND THAT ... ME WITH ALL MY STRENGTH. IT'S MORE THAN A FEELING ... IT GOES DEEPER THAN THAT
AH
WHAT WAS THAT?
THAT'S TERRY'S VOICE. TERRY? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
STEPHENSON, WHERE IS TERRY? WASN'T SHE WITH YOU? I DON'T SEE HER AND SHE DOESN'T ANSWER ON THE RADIO
YES, COMMANDER. SHE WENT TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU SHOWED HER ON THE SIDE OF THE CRATER TO PICK UP SOME OF THE MICROBIOLOGICAL REMAINS YOU HAD REQUESTED
DON'T UNDERSTAND ... WHEN HER BEACON ON THE SCREEN ... CAN YOU SEE HER, DOC?
THE SUN IS IN MY EYES
COMMANDER ROGERS HERE ... CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YES, ROGERS. WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE COMPUTER HAS FINALLY BEGUN TO GIVE US SOME DATA. IT HAS THE SOLUTION TO THE "PARADOX"
GOOD. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?
THE ASTEROID IS NOT AN ASTEROID BUT THIS IS ... WELL, ALL THIS IS JUST ABSURD!
WHAT IS ABSURD? DAMN IT, ROGERS, GO ON
THE COMPUTER SAYS THAT APART FROM AN INTERNAL ARTIFICIAL CORE MADE OUT OF METAL BARS, ALL THE OUTER PART IS MADE OF ORGANIC MATERIAL ... WELL, THIS IS AN IMMENSE LIVING AND THINKING CREATURE WHICH IS TRYING TO INTEGRATE WITH THE INTERNAL ARTIFICIAL CORE. THE COMPUTER IS SAYING THAT THIS BEING, THIS ENTITY IS THE PRIMARY CREATURE, THE ABSOLUTE ... IT'S GOD
WH ... WHAT?
DOC, DID YOU HEAR THAT? WHERE ARE YOU?


OH MY GOD! DOC HAS DISAPPEARED! AND STEPHENSON TOO! THERE'S NO ONE LEFT HERE EXCEPT ME. I'M ALONE. ALONE
COMMANDER THIS IS RANIER. SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON. THE INSTRUMENTS HAVE GONE CRAZY. THE SHIP IS SHIFTING. HEY... NO NO!
I'VE ASKED THE COMPUTER AGAIN AND AGAIN AND THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME. IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS CHAOS. THEN GOD CREATED THE ULTIMATE BEING, THE PRIMARY CREATURE. HIMSELF. WILL, CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ME ROGERS. ANSWER ME
THE SHIP!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON? WILL ANSWER ME. WILL
THE SHIP IS SHIFTING RANIER, ACTIVATE THE ENGINES. HURRY. QUICK!
IT'S ROGERS HERE. ANSWER ME DAMN IT. WILL. WILL
WHAT! NO! SHHHHH
I'M BEING SUCKED DOWN TO. ROGERS. I, TOO
WILL, CAN'T HEAR YOU VERY WELL. WILL REPEAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID. WILL! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I TOO TOO


THE LIGHT... IT HURTS MY EYES. WHERE AM I? NO... DON'T GO!
HMMMM... WHERE AM I? I CAN'T SEE HIM ANYMORE. HE WAS HERE, RIGHT NEXT TO ME. HE WAS SO HANDSOME... I MUST BE DREAMING.
THE DESERTED CITY. THE SWAMP... IT MUST HAVE ALL BEEN A DREAM, OR RATHER A NIGHTMARE... NOW I'M FINALLY AWAKE. WHY CAN'T I MOVE MY LEGS? I'M SO STIFF!
HEAVENS... I'M FREEZING. MUST HAVE SLEPT FOR A LONG TIME. WONDER HOW LONG? SOMEONE MUST HAVE WOKEN ME UP... WAS DREAMING THAT I WAS A PRISONER OF THAT THING OF THAT HORRIBLE BEING... COULD SEE MYSELF AS A CHILD... IT WAS SO STRANGE AND MY FATHER WAS THERE TOO. AS IF HE WAS THE MAN WITH THE DARK SKIN.
SHOULD GET UP... SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT. FIND IT VERY HARD TO MOVE... SHIT, I'M BUNDLED UP IN A SHEET. WHO COULD HAVE WRAPPED ME UP LIKE THIS? EVERYTHING IS SO STRANGE.
IT JUST DISINTEGRATED INTO DUST... IT MUST MEAN THAT IT'S VERY OLD... OH MY GOD... ONLY TIME CAN HAVE THIS EFFECT ON THINGS.
OH, GOD... BEEN SO LONG?... IT'S UNBELIEVABLE
BUT HOW COULD I BE BUNDLED UP THAT WAY? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE


BRRR. IT'S FREEZING AND I'M COMPLETELY NAKED. WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES? ALL THIS IS SO STRANGE AND LOOK AT THE DUST ON THE FLOOR. A COUPLE OF INCHES DEEP. I'D SINK MY FEET BACK IN IT
"I'VE GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE? CAN'T REMEMBER. MY HEAD FEELS EMPTY. I CAN ONLY REMEMBER MY DREAMS. USED TO LIVE IN AN ABANDONED CITY WHERE THERE WAS THAT HORRIBLE SWAMP WITH PUTRID WATERS.
BEFORE THAT THERE WAS THE SEA, OF COURSE. I REMEMBER HOW LOVELY IT WAS, FULL OF LIGHT. THEN MY STRANGE DWARF. WHO IS HE? LEWIS! OH MY GOD. YES. YES. THOSE WEREN'T MY DREAMS! NOW I UNDERSTAND. THAT WAS YOU, LEWIS! HE KEPT ME PRISONER OF HIS DREAMS, BOUND BY HIS WILL IN HIS WORLD OF ILLUSION
BUT HOW DID HE DO THAT? HOW LONG DID HE KEEP ME HERE? SEVERAL YEARS? OH, NO. MY GOD. WHAT AM I SAYING? THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT. IT'S ABSURD. IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU GO CRAZY. NOW I MUST REMAIN CALM AND TRY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.
MAYBE I CAN GET OVER THERE. THE WALL FELL DOWN. IT LOOKS LIKE A DOME OF SOME SORT
NEED SOME CLOTHES. WELL, AT LEAST IT'S NOT AS COLD OUT HERE


THERE ARE OTHER DOMES. ALL IN RUINS. WHERE SHOULD I GO NOW? THERE SEEMS TO BE AN OPENING OVER THERE. LET'S TRY THAT
WHAT'LL I FIND IN HERE? IT'S SO DARK. MUST BE CAREFUL.
A TUNNEL. WONDER WHERE IT LEADS TO. HOPE IT'S THE RIGHT WAY.
I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR A WHILE BUT THIS TUNNEL NEVER ENDS. THE WATER IS RISING. HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, NO! SOMETHING WEIRD... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?
OH NO OH GOD THE WATER
KROOOOO

CONTINUED ON PAGE 66

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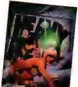

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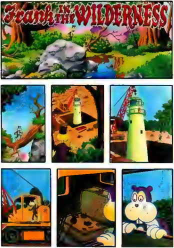
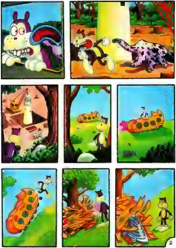
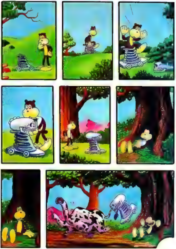

Frank in the Wilderness





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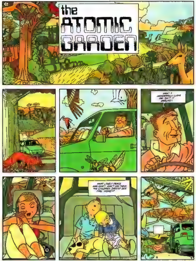
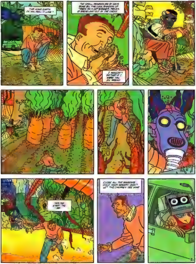
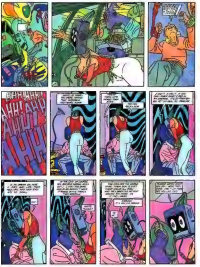
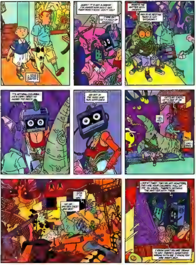
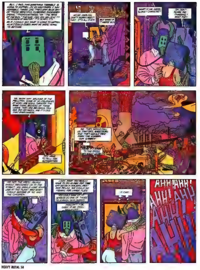

the ATOMIC GARDEN
WHAT A WONDERFULLY CLEAR DAY, ISN'T IT DARLING?
WHAT LOVELY PEACE AND QUIET. DON'T YOU THINK THE CHILDREN SHOULD SEE THIS, HONEY?


THE HUMID EARTH, DO YOU FEEL IT, LOVE?
THE SMELL REMINDS ME OF DAYS GONE BY, THE COOL SHADOW OF TREES ON A HOT SUMMER, PIECES OF BREAD JUST OUT OF THE OVENS.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU, MY FRIEND!
DID YOU START THE AIR
CLOSE ALL THE WINDOWS HOLD YOUR BREATH DON'T LET THE CHILDREN SEE WHAT


AHHH!
AHHH! AHH! AHHH!
WAKE UP HONEY! YOU WERE HAVING THAT HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE AGAIN.
PHEW! TODAY WAS WORSE THAN EVER.
YOU CAN RELAX NOW
I CAN'T. I CAN'T. IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT I SEE IN MY DREAMS. IT'S SO FRIGHTENING YET SO REAL, SO FAMILIAR.
IN MY DREAM YOU HAVE A FACE AND LIPS. THICK RED LIPS. AND YOUR EYES ARE SO SMALL.
OH
IN THE END, OF COURSE, YOU BECOME NORMAL AGAIN. BUT I, I STAY THE SAME AND IN MY MOUTH I HAVE STRANGE WHITE THINGS THAT SPARKLE.
WHITE THINGS?
THE KIDS ARE THE WORST. THEIR SKIN IS SOFT. THEIR COLOR ALL PINK AND THEY BREATHE WITHOUT MAKING ANY NOISE, AS IF THEY WERE...
ENOUGH! IT'S ONLY A DREAM.
NO NO
PLEASE, WATCH WHAT YOU SAY. HERE THEY COME. DON'T LET THEM SEE YOU LIKE THIS.


AAAH!
AGAIN! IT'S NOT A DREAM! I'M AWAKE NOW AND I SEE THEIR NOSY FACES. DON'T YOU?
COME ON! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH DADDY?
WHY IS HE RESTING TODAY IS NOT SATURDAY?
IT'S NOTHING, CHILDREN. HE'S VERY TIRED. HE WORKS TOO MUCH.
GO OUT IN THE YARD AND PLAY WITH CACO.
LET'S GO CACO. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN CATCH US.
GIVE IT TO ME!
HA HA! BAD BOY CACO! BAD BOY.
LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE NOT MONSTERS. THEY ARE YOUR CHILDREN, FULL OF ME AS USUAL. THERE'S NOTHING THE MATTER WITH THEM.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME. I KNOW YOU ARE RIGHT, BUT...


BUT, I FEEL THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN... IN MY NIGHTMARE I SAW HORRIBLE THINGS LIKE "PARTICULAR BLUE SKY" OR "THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERING RHODODENDRONS," "PHOTOSYNTHESIS" OR "THE RAYS OF THE SUN," "THE SURF..." CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? I'M DREAMING OF WEATHER. IT'S SCARY. IT'S...
AS IF I COULD SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. AS IF I COULD GUESS WHAT WE WERE GOING TO BECOME.
PLAY
REC
STOP
PAUSE
NO, NO, DARLING, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. IT'S ALL OVER.
BUT WHAT IF IT WERE TRUE?
WHAT IF WE WERE SLOWLY CHANGING?
OH, DON'T SCARE ME CHANGING! WHAT INTO?
YOU KNOW WHY, BECAUSE OF THE POLLUTION. SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES AT WORK ARE GOING THROUGH THE SAME THING. BECAUSE OF THESE LEAKS, THEY ARE BECOMING FISH AND BIRDS, AND IT'S LIKE THAT EVERYWHERE.
YOU HAVE TO TELL THE AUTHORITIES.
NO. THEY WOULD CALL US TRAITORS, SABOTEURS AND THEY WOULD TAKE AWAY THE GARDEN, OUR GARDEN.
WHAT IF I TALKED TO THE PRESS THEY MIGHT LISTEN.
NO, NOT THE PRESS. PEOPLE WOULD RECOGNIZE US IN THE STREET. YOU WOULD LOSE YOUR JOB AT THE PLANT AND WHAT WOULD BECOME OF ME AND THE CHILDREN?
LOOK, WHAT YOU REALLY HAVE TO DO IS ASK FOR TIME OFF, GO ON A HOLIDAY, REST AND RELAX. WE COULD GO FISHING FOR LARGE FLIES.
YOU COULD SIGN UP TO APPEAR ON ONE OF THOSE TELEVISION QUIZ SHOWS.
WOULDN'T IT BE SUPER IF WE COULD WIN A CAR?
A CAR.
AHH!AHH!
AHHHAHH
AHHH

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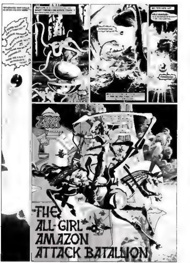
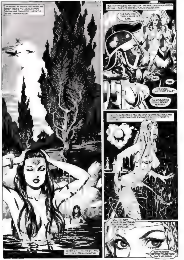
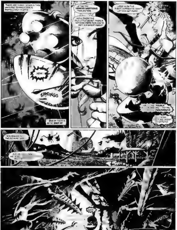
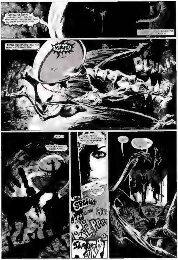
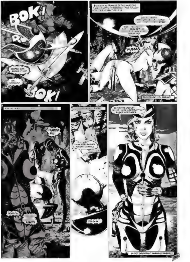
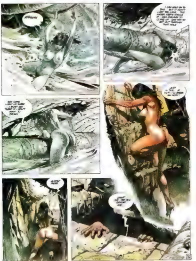

INTERESTING
OR PERHAPS NOT
HOLY MANDRO!!
HE IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE CAPITAL
ZIRK
THE ALL-GIRL AMAZON ATTACK BATALLION


PURSUING AN ERRATIC AND WOBBLING ORBIT AROUND THE DOUBLE STARS [illegible] AND [illegible] IS THE PLANET MAMAMAZON
A WORLD [illegible] AND [illegible] OPEN CIVILISATION
RULED BY PRINCESS PENTHESILEA, THE AMAZONS OF MAMAMAZON ARE MUCH GIVEN TO [illegible] PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS.
THE TOPIC FOR TODAY'S ACME IS ZORK
BOO!
HISS!
HE WALKS WITHOUT PIGLET
THE DISGUSTING MALE SEXIST PERVERT
[illegible] TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED [illegible] SINCE HER ENCOUNTER [illegible]
NOW HE SAY [illegible] OF ANYTHING [illegible] WITH [illegible] OF ENTAILLES
BUT WE KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, DON'T WE, DEAR?

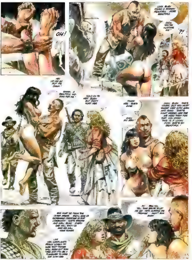

THERE ARE THREE THINGS IN THIS UNIVERSE TO WHICH I'M PARTICULARLY AVERSE
YOW!
SHSINGG
ONE OF THEM IS BEING SHOT AT!
LET'S TRY THE HOMING HARPOONS THIS TIME
WE'LL SHOW THE VILE LITTLE BEAST THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR HIM TO GET IN A SWEAT ABOUT!
LOOSE IN ON THE RIGHT, HIPPOLYTA. DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
DOUBLE
AGGRESSIVE
T-THUNK

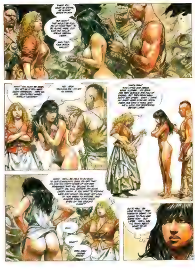

YIKES!
DUUNK
OH NO!
SPLING
CHEE
RIPPP
SLASH

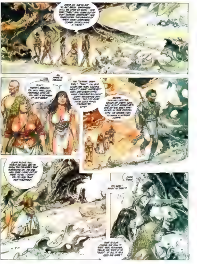

BOK!
BOK!
THE FIGHTING PROWESS OF THE AMAZONS ... KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY
HUBBA
HUBBA
ROBOTS
ROBOTS
SO NOW WE CAN GET OUT OF THESE HORRIBLE TIGHT ROBOT COSTUMES

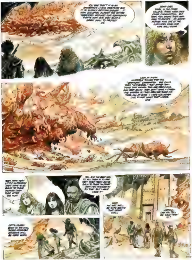

AHHHHH!
I CAN HOLD ON TO THIS... BUT IT WON'T LAST TOO LONG. THIS WATER KEEPS RISING. I CAN MANAGE TO CLIMB UP. CAN YOU TO GET OUT THROUGH THAT HOLE
SEE SOME LIGHT UP THERE. I MUST GET THERE IF I DON'T WANT TO DROWN!
JUST IN TIME. A SLIP I'LL BREAK MY NECK!
ALMOST THERE
GREAT, THE [illegible] BIG [illegible] ME.

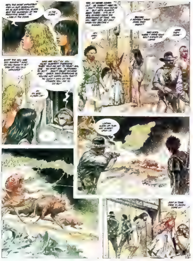
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

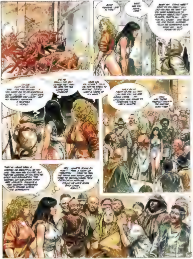

OH!
LOOK, BUSH FOUND A WOMAN. BEAUTIFUL... MORE BEAUTIFUL
OUCH, YOU'RE HURTING ME!
?!
HEY, LET ME GO. PUT ME DOWN!
MMMM, A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FOR ME!
HOLD ON TO HER, BUSH, BUT DON'T HURT HER
FOUND HER. SHE'S MINE
OUCH! MY ARM!
OKAY, BUSH. SHE'S YOURS. BUT YOU MUST SHARE HER WITH GRAL AND ASAD. THAT'S WHAT WOMEN ARE FOR. WE NEED THEM FOR THAT, YOU KNOW. THIS IS A LUCKY FIND. SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
SHE MUST BE FROM THE OTHER AREAS. SHE'LL GIVE US INCREASED PRESTIGE IN OUR COMMUNITY. GUY'S WOMEN AND WILL BEAR. EVERY ONE WILL ENVY US AND WE WILL HAVE POWER
LIKE HER, LOOK, SHE'S REALLY LOVELY. I'M SURE THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT THIS TIME AND IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO HANG OUT WITH HER
AH... BIG YOU. TELL THIS BRUTE TO LET ME GO. HE'S HURTING ME. PROMISE... DON'T RUN AWAY

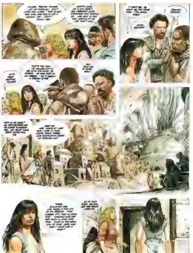

THANK YOU, MAN! AN ANIMAL! HE ALMOST BROKE MY ARM.
RUN AWAY? THAT WOULD BE FOOLISH ON YOUR PART. TO BE ALONE HERE, OUTSIDE THE WALLS, SPELLS CERTAIN DEATH.
WHY "OUTSIDE WHICH WALLS"?
WHAT? YOU MUST BE CRAZY. YOU ACT AS IF YOU WERE BORN YESTERDAY. HERE YOU ARE COMPLETELY NAKED! TOTALLY INDECENT!
HEY, STOP TOUCHING ME. I'M NOT AN ANIMAL.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS LITTLE ONE NEEDS SOME CLOTHES. MY BOYS ARE VERY CURIOUS AND FULL OF ENERGY, BUT THEY MEAN WELL. DON'T GET UPSET. WAIT - I HAVE MY SKIRT HERE WITH ME. YOU'LL MAKE DUE WITH IT NOW, AND WE'LL LOOK FOR SOMETHING BETTER LATER.
GOOD. WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY ONCE YOU GET THAT ON AND YOU WON'T SHAKE UP OUR MEN. REMEMBER THAT YOU BELONG TO ME. OKAY? YOU WILL SATISFY MY BOYS EVERY NIGHT. IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN SAFE AND SOUND YOU MUST NOT LOOK AT NOR SPEAK TO ANYONE, AND ALWAYS WALK WITH YOUR EYES ON THE GROUND. CLEAR?
YEAH.
WHAT?
YEAH, CLEAR ENOUGH MA'AM.
GO TO HELL. BIG LOVE TO YOU. THAT WOMAN'S CRAZY. I'M GOING TO PLAY HER GAME NOW... BUT LATER... WE'LL SEE. I'LL THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.

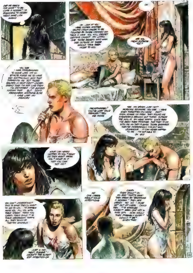

COME ON. WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK. DARKNESS WILL BE UPON US SOON AND THEN "THEY" WILL COME OUT OF THAT "SURGING CREATURE". [illegible] THOUSANDS OF THEM WHEN DARKNESS COMES. DO YOU HAVE A NAME?
MY NAME IS DELILAH.
DON'T WORRY, DELILAH. YOU WILL FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH US. YOU ARE A MEMBER OF OUR GROUP.
THE "SURGING CREATURE" ... "THEY" ... OH, GOD WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? WHAT HAPPENED? HOW HAS EVERYTHING CHANGED SO MUCH? DON'T RECOGNIZE ANYTHING. THE CITY MUST HAVE LONG SINCE CEASED TO EXIST.
BEHIND THIS HILL LIES THE VALLEY OF DEATH. GAAL WILL SCOUT AHEAD. HE'S ONE OF THE BEST WAR RIDERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. HE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A WOMAN HAPPY.
COME ALONG. YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET TO KNOW THE DANGERS THAT SURROUND US. NO ONE HAS EVER COME OUT OF HERE ALIVE. I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT FOR YOURSELF.
OVER THERE
MY GOD! WHAT IS THAT?
THAT IS OUR [illegible]. WE CALL IT "[illegible]". HOWEVER, [illegible] TELLS US THAT IT IS [illegible]. IF SO, IT IS A GOD WE HAVE!

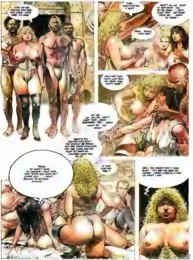

YOU SEE THAT? IT IS AN ENORMOUS LIVING CREATURE AND IT IS SLOWLY GETTING BIGGER... IT NOW OCCUPIES ALMOST THE ENTIRE TERRITORY AROUND OUR COMMUNITY. THAT'S WHY OUR MEN BUILT A GREAT WALL TO PROTECT US.
DON'T CRY. THERE, IN THE OTHER VALLEYS, THERE WERE ONCE OTHER COMMUNITIES. BUT VERY FEW AMONG THEM MANAGED TO ESCAPE... MY GRANDMOTHER WAS ONE OF THE SURVIVORS WHEN SHE WAS STILL YOUNG.
LOOK AT THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS THAT THE "CREATURE" GENERATES. WE CALL THEM "ANTIBODIES." THEY ATTACK ANY THING THAT MOVES. THEY ARE FEROCIOUS AND VERY QUICK. THEY DON'T HAVE A DIGESTIVE SYSTEM SO THEY ABSORB THEIR VICTIMS ALL AT ONCE. I HOPE YOU NEVER LIVE TO SEE WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE.
THEY HAVE VERY LITTLE AUTONOMY. THEY HAVE TO GO BACK TO THEIR MOTHER CREATURE AFTER THE HUNT.
YES, AND THE BEST WAY TO KILL THEM IS TO FIRE 'EM? THEN THEY'LL GO BACK TO THEIR "MOTHER." VERY FEW MANAGE TO DO THAT. BUT I HAVE DONE IT!
LET'S HURRY BACK TO THE WALL. THOSE HORRIBLE ANIMALS WILL BE HERE SOON.
HERE WE ARE. WE'LL BE SAFE BEHIND THAT GREAT WALL.
LORMAN, CAN YOU TELL ME WHO "THAT" IS?

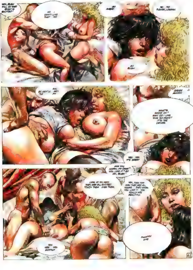

HE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN OUR COMMUNITY. HE IS OUR SPIRITUAL GUIDE AND THE GUARDIAN OF THE PRIMITIVE SPIRIT. HE LIVES IN THE DOME.
IN THE DOME?
YES. HE NEVER COMES OUT. HE DOESN'T NEED TO. I DON'T KNOW HOW OLD HE IS. BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE... IT'S AS IF HE'S EXISTED FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME. YOU WILL MEET HIM. BUT ONLY WHEN YOU BECOME A WOMAN.
BECOME A WOMAN? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HEY, GIDDY UP.
WHO GOES THERE? MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN OR LEAVE!
HERE THEY COME!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU! SLAVERS? WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS? OPEN UP, YOU OLD GROUCH!
WHO ARE YOU? OH, YOU MUST SUSPECT EVERYONE. THEY TOLD ME NOT TO TRUST ANYONE, SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? DON'T TRUST ANYONE AND CHECK WHO EVERYONE IS. YOU'RE NOT HAPPY WITH THAT? NO GOOD? WHY DO THE COUNCIL TELL ME TO DO SO?
OH MY GOD, HURRY UP!
LOOKOUT! HURRY UP, THEY ARE ALMOST UPON US.
JUST IN TIME! COME IN, QUICK, COME IN!

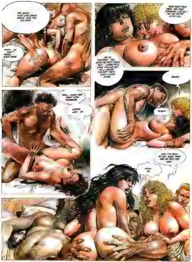

GOOD MORNING. JUST IN TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY DO YOU ASK ME "WHY"? DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT, TOO? COMPLAINTS, THAT'S ALL I GET FROM YOU ALL AGAIN. ONE TELLS ME ONE THING, ANOTHER TELLS ME SOMETHING ELSE. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
OH GOD, CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS. "I'VE HAD ENOUGH. IF YOU WANT ME TO DO SOMETHING ELSE, I'LL DO IT. I DON'T CARE. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT." GET NO RESPECT ANYMORE. 3 TRAPDOOR 0 HORSES.
DID HE REALLY NOT RECOGNIZE ME? "HAN" BE HE'S NOT THE SAME ONE HOWEVER.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? "TOLD YOU NOT TO WANDER TO ANYONE. DO YOU WANT A TASTE OF MY WHIP?"
WALK ON IN FRONT OF ME SO THAT I CAN SEE YOU. WE ARE GOING HOME. MY CHILDREN ARE EAGER TO EXERCISE THEIR VIRILE RIGHTS.
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?
THEY'VE NEVER SEEN A WOMAN AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE. THE MEN ARE EXCITED, BUT THEY'RE LOOKING AT YOU WITH RESPECT AND ADMIRATION. THE WOMEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE JEALOUS. OWNING A NEW WOMAN INCREASES ONE'S POWER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.
HEY... WHAT'S GOING ON NOW? I FEEL A SORT OF VIBRATION... USED TO FEEL THE SAME WAY WHEN LOWE TRIED TO COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY WITH ME. COULD HE HAVE COME BACK ONCE AGAIN?
50

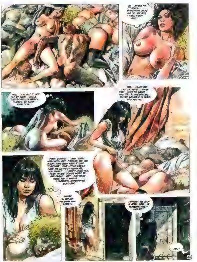

PLEASE, PEOPLE, PLEASE, LET US THROUGH. DON'T COME TOO CLOSE. THIS IS OUR NEW GIRL, AND SHE IS NOT A WOMAN YET. DON'T TOUCH HER.
WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HEAD? THE VIBRATION GETS STRONGER AND STRONGER... AND WHY IS THAT MAN LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
IT CAN'T BE. HE CAN'T BE THE SAME MAN. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.
DREAMS! DREAMS!
MORE DREAMS!
LET'S KEEP MOVING, PLEASE.
THAT'S THE MAN. HE CALLED OUT TO ME WITH HIS MIND. HE KNOWS. HE WAS PART OF MY DREAM... SO IT WASN'T A DREAM AFTER ALL.
HEY! TOLD YOU TO MOVE BACK!
WHY IS HE HERE? HE RECOGNIZED ME. HE CAME TOWARDS ME... HE MUST HAVE BEEN EXPECTING ME.
HERE WE ARE, HOME AT LAST. OUR LIVES IN THESE DOMES DOWN THERE. OUR COMMUNITY GROWN UP AROUND US.
THESE BUILDINGS ARE LIKE THOSE IN THE CITY OF MY DREAMS... THAT CURSED CITY. THAT ILLUSION THAT HAUNTED ME FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. THE... WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THAT HERE AND NOW? WHAT CAN IT MEAN?
GO TO YOUR ROOM. WE WILL GET YOU READY LATER ON.

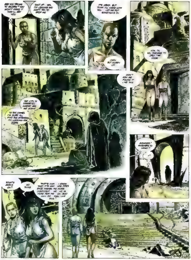

DID HE REACH FOR WHAT? TO BECOME A WOMAN? I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER ABOUT WHAT I'VE HEARD
OH
OH, LOOK AT YOU. HERE COMES ANOTHER SACRED VIRGIN EAGER TO BE POLLUTED BY THOSE DAMNED BEASTS IN HEAT. YOU WILL FORGET GETTING CAUGHT, MY LOVELY ONE. THOSE BEASTS WHO WAIT OUTSIDE OF THESE WOULD HAVE BEEN KINDER TO YOU
ARE YOU FROM OUTSIDE, TOO?
YOU SEE, I WAS PROGRAMMED TO MAKE LOVE. MY INSTINCTS FORCE ME TO HAVE SEX CONTINUALLY, AND THAT TORMENTS ME. BUT THOSE BRUTES IN HEAT DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT LIKE THEM. I'M DIFFERENT. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT... BUT I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE. I HAVE LOST MY MEMORY
PROGRAMMED? YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY? TELL ME MORE
YES. MY BRAIN JUST ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE. YOU SEE, I HAVE EVEN FORGOTTEN MY NAME. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M FROM. THEY FOUND ME WANDERING AROUND OUT THERE, OUTSIDE THE WALLS, MY HEAD EMPTY. SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN THEIR PRISONER, FOR THEM TO DO WITH ME AS THEY PLEASE. THOSE BARBARIANS, THEY'RE INCREDIBLY VIOLENT AND LECHEROUS... IT CAN NEVER HAPPEN TO ME... I'M NOT ABLE TO... OH, GOD
WHAT CAN NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU? WHAT DO THEY WANT FROM YOU? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU CAN NOT DO?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND? THIS IS WHAT THEY'LL WANT TO DO TO YOU... TO IMPREGNATE YOU, FILL YOU WITH THEIR SEED. HAVE YOU CARRY THEIR CHILD! IT IS THEIR OBSESSION! THAT'S ALL THEY THINK OF. THEY'RE ANIMALS
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE! I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF...
NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR INTENTIONS
CARRY THEIR CHILD? OH MY GOD! THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY "BECOMING A WOMAN." THEY ARE CRAZY. NO, NO, I MUST GET OUT OF HERE. COULD IT BE... THE STRANGE MALADY? BEEN ONE YET IN THIS CITY... HOW COULD THEY POSSIBLY EXIST? COULD IT BE? EVEN THAT


HERE WE ARE, DELPHA. THE TIME HAS COME. COME HERE, MY LOVE
FIRST I MUST GIVE YOU A SHOT
WHAT? NO, NO... WHAT IS THAT STUFF YOU... YOU'RE CRAZY... I DON'T WANT THAT... GET AWAY FROM ME... I WANT TO LEAVE!
SUSH... ROMAO, HOLD HER!
HOLD HER! DIDN'T YOU'D, LOST TIME, MY DEAR. NOW DON'T MOVE!
LET ME GO... NO, NO! I DON'T WANT THAT... AAAH BASTARDS! NO! I DON'T WANT TO... NO AAAH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. YOU ARE DOING YOUR DUTY. YOU ARE ANNA AND YOU MUST DO WHAT MY CHILDREN WANT YOU TO DO.
PROUD OF WHAT? AAAH... OH HEAVENS! WHAT WAS THAT STUFF YOU GAVE ME? CURSE YOU... I DON'T BELONG TO ANYONE... ANYONE!
IS THAT HOW YOU FEEL?
WELL, YOU ASKED FOR IT, THEN. SUSH... YOU ARE THE BEST SH... SOMBE! LISTEN CAREFULLY AND DO WHAT I SAY


WELL, BUSH, YOU SEE THAT BUSH IS EXCITED?
NO ... I DON'T LIKE THAT ... NO
GO AHEAD!
NO ... NO PLEASE, LORENN.
GO BUSH ...
BE GENTLE TO ... AH ... AH ... AH
AHHHH ... AHHHH
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DO I LIKE THIS SO MUCH? IT'S THE DRUGS.
YES ... YES IT'S GREAT
ARE YOU HAPPY, MY DEAR? YOU LIKE IT? GO ON, BUSH!
LOOK AT MY MEN. THEY ARE ALL EXCITED. TOUCH THEM ... KISS THEM.
YES, KISS HIM. NOW THEY ARE ALL YOURS ... THEY KNOW YOU LIKE ... YOU REALLY ARE BEAUTIFUL.
YES ... YES ... YES ... MMMMM
MMMMMM OHH


MR. BUSH, THAT WAS GREAT, [illegible] HOW YOU CAN STOP
AHHH... NO MORE? MORE, I WANT MORE
TAKE YOUR TIME [illegible]. WE NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU! I AM SO HAPPY WITH YOU
[illegible] BE HAUNTED. YOU GAVE ME THAT DRUG BUT [illegible] LOVED THIS [illegible] HAVING SEX [illegible] WILL NEVER FORGET THEM [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
BALL, MAKE HER FAINT WITH PLEASURE
[illegible] AHH AH
NOW IT'S BACK TO YOU, BUSH! TAKE HER AS [illegible] YOU CAN.
[illegible]


OH... WHERE AM I? I'M NAKED. SOMETHING WOKE ME UP. MY GOD, I FEEL WORN OUT
WELL... I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE... WHILE THEY'RE STILL SLEEPING. WHERE'S MY SHIRT? THERE IT IS
YES... MUST GET OUT OF HERE... WHEN THEY HAVE TO LEAVE AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND. MAYBE SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR ME
POOR LORNA... CAN'T STAY HERE WITH YOU! FORGIVE ME. WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER! YOUR LITTLE DEVILS GAVE ME SO MUCH PLEASURE, YOU KNOW? I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THOSE DRUGS WERE RESPONSIBLE... BUT I CAN REASSURE YOU IT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. GOOD BYE
MAYBE I'LL GET OUT THE SAME WAY I CAME IN.
STRANGE! THE DOOR IS OPEN! WHO... IS SOMEONE HELPING ME?
HEY!


ARE YOU TRYING TO ESCAPE? YOU WON'T MAKE IT. THEY'LL GET YOU
SHUT UP. YES, I'M LEAVING AND DON'T TRY TO STOP ME.
IT'S CRAZY, BUT THINK I'LL COME WITH YOU. LET ME PUT SOMETHING ON.
OKAY. BUT HURRY UP.
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO OPEN THE DOOR
DON'T ASK ME. FOUND IT LIKE THIS.
THE CITY IS DESERTED. WHERE ARE WE GOING
TO THE DOMES. I'M SURE I'LL FIND THE ANSWERS I'M LOOKING FOR THERE.
ANSWERS? ANSWERS TO WHAT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO... THING
THAT'S ALL. I KNOW THAT IT'S HIM. HIS EYES MADE ME MORE CONFIDENT. ME. HE IS HERE FOR ME. OH GOD, WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS
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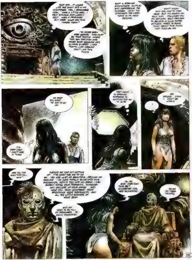
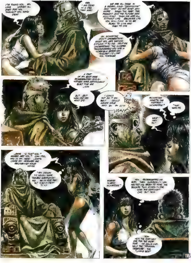
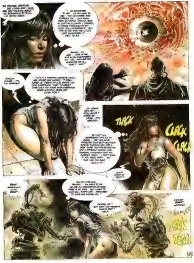
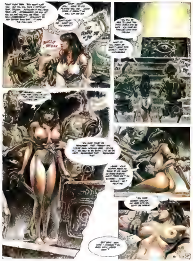
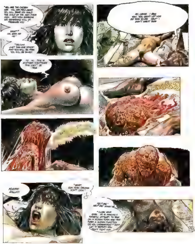
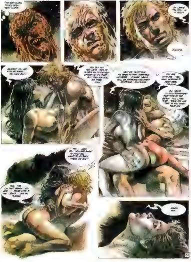

THAT EYE... IT LOOKS LIKE THE GIANT EYE IN MY NIGHTMARE. YES, I REMEMBER NOW... I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I FELT ANXIOUS AND LONELY, I FELT I WAS A PRISONER. BUT HERE, WHAT CAN THIS IMAGE MEAN?
I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE. THIS MUST BE THEIR TEMPLE, WHERE THEY SAY THAT MAN WAS NEVER BORN BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS EXISTED. LIKE THAT'S JUST ABSURD. DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE.
WHAT A STRANGE ATMOSPHERE, MUFFLED AND OPPRESSIVE. THE FURTHER I GO IN, THE STRONGER THE VIBRATIONS IN MY HEAD BECOME.
DON'T KNOW WHY YOU HAD TO COME HERE. BUT I'M ASKING MYSELF WHY I FOLLOWED YOU. MY RATIONAL SELF REFUSES TO BELIEVE IN SUCH SUPERSTITIONS. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT PUZZLES ME.
SO WHAT YOU WANT ME TO GO ON
IT'S VERY DARK. I CAN'T SEE A THING.
THAT DOOR IS OPENING. SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR ME. I'M SURE.
?
YES, DRUUNA. COME IN. DON'T BE AFRAID.
ARE YOU THE MAN THEY CALL GOD?
FORGIVE ME FOR NOT GETTING UP. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO DO SO. YOU ARE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL, DRUUNA MY DARLING. I'VE GONE TOTALLY BLIND WITH THIS MECHANICAL DEVICE TIED INTO MY BRAIN. I CAN BARELY SENSE YOUR PRESENCE, ALTHOUGH I CAN CONJURE UP YOUR IMAGE AND HEAR YOU, YOUR HEARTBEAT, YOUR BREATHING, YOUR SENSUALITY AND ALL THE LITTLE SOUNDS OF YOUR BODY.
AND MY HEAD IS SO FULL OF MEMORIES. SO MANY MEMORIES.
OH MY GOD, HOW CAN THIS BE? SCHASTAR, YOU ARE SCHASTAR!
SOME OF THEM [illegible]

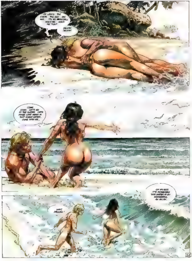

I'VE FOUND YOU, MY LOVE. I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
YES, I AM DEAD IN A CERTAIN WAY.
WE ARE ALL DEAD IN A SENSE, WHEN "BEGINNING" AND "END" DO NOT EXIST ANY MORE. WHEN THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE ARE NULLIFIED, THEN WE ARE ALL WITHOUT LIFE. BECAUSE LIFE YOU WILL FIND, IS TO BE BORN TO LIVE AND THEN TO DIE.
OH, SCHASTAR, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING. EXPLAIN IT TO ME. HELP ME UNDERSTAND. THE ILLUSERS TRANSFORMED YOU INTO A HORRIBLE CREATURE. I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER.
A PART OF MY BODY WAS REGENERATED AND ANOTHER WAS ARTIFICIALLY BUILT FOR ME. LOOK.
BUT... BUT HOW DID YOU... WHO DID...
I COULD NOT DO IT MY SELF. I COULD NEVER HAVE MADE IT ON MY OWN.
SCHASTAR, WHAT'S THE MATTER? SCHASTAR?
THAT WAS ME.
WHAT? WHO SAID IT?
LEANE, IS THAT YOU? WHERE ARE YOU? I CAN FEEL YOU IN MY HEAD. LEANE, COME ON, ANSWER ME. I RECOGNIZED YOUR VOICE.
YES, SOMEONE IN WHICH SOME TROUBLE CONTINUOUSLY WAS... BUT IN YOUR HEAD BUT ALSO IN FRONT OF YOU.
WHERE... WHERE, SCHASTAR?
YES. REGENERATED MY BODY. THEN SURGICALLY CONNECTED HIS BRAIN TO MINE. WE BECAME TWO MINDS IN ONE, AND THE DOMINANT ONE, BUT NOW...
NOW HE'S THE DOMINANT ONE FOR THE MOST PART. HE CALLS HIMSELF THE "PRIMARY CREATURE", THE "LIVING GOD".

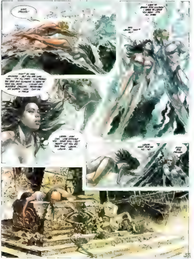

"THE FOREIGN CREATURE ... THE LIVING GOD ... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?" I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'M GOING CRAZY.
"... AM CONNECTED TO HIM. ... SO YOU WANT TO SEE ... THE NIGHTMARE THAT PURSUES ME. LOOK AWAY FROM SCHUSTER, DALIAH. THAT IS JUST AN ILLUSION I CREATED, AN IMAGE PRODUCED BY MY MIND YOU UNDERSTAND. BUT THIS IS THE WAY THE LIVING GOD MANIFESTS IT-SELF TO ME."
AAAAH ... OH GOD ... THIS IS THE EVIL IN MY NIGHTMARES. NO ... NO ... WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME ALL THIS? WHY?
ENOUGH PLEASE ... IT'S TOO HORRIBLE
"THIS IS A FOREIGN CREATURE WHICH HAS JOINED OUR WORLD. IT DOMINATED US. FEEDS ON OUR EMOTIONS, ON OUR EXISTENCE. THAT 'CLASSES' WAS ONLY ITS FIRST MANIFESTATION. GOOD AND EVIL DOES NOT EXIST FOR IT."
OH, JESUS WHY AM I STILL ALIVE? AFTER SO LONG ... IT'S ABSURD
"BUT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?" IT'S ALL MY DOING ... KEPT YOU ALIVE ... PROTECTED YOUR BODY AND YOUR MIND BY PLUNGING YOU INTO A DEEP SLEEP AND PROJECTING YOU INTO A DIFFERENT SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL DIMENSION THAT YOU ALREADY KNEW. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WERE HAPPY ... BUT THAT WAS THE BEST I COULD DO."
TLACK
CLACK
CLACK
WAIT, WHAT IS THAT?
NOW PAY ATTENTION, DALIAH ... I AM ABOUT TO DIE. WE ARE ALL DESTINED TO DIE HERE, THERE IS NO HOPE. BUT I WANT TO SAVE YOU. THAT'S WHY ... ARRANGED TO HAVE HIM CHOOSE YOU."
BRAP ... CLICK BRAP
CHOOSE ME? BUT WHY? OH HEAVENS WHAT'S THAT? HELP!
... BRAP ...
TLACK
TLACK

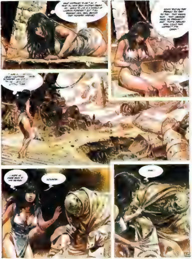

"DON'T FIGHT THEM. THEY WON'T HURT YOU. BUT YOU WILL FACE A DIFFICULT TEST, DRUUNA. ALTHOUGH IT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE. AFTERWARDS, HE WILL LET YOU GO AND YOU WILL BE FREE ... DO YOU UNDERSTAND?" COULDN'T DO ANY BETTER THAN THAT ... IT WAS THE ONLY WAY."
WHAT ... WHAT WILL ... WANT TO DO ... PLEASE TELL ME ... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?" HE WILL LET ME GO
DON'T HURT ME ... WHAT DO YOU WANT?"
BZZZ..P SHZZZ
BIP BIPBIP BIP BIP
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS DYING WORLD AND BE SAFE. YOU MUST GO THROUGH WITH THIS ORDEAL
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "SAFE"? LEAVE THIS WORLD? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
BIP BIP
BIP BIP BIP
YOU MUST TRUST ME, DRUUNA!!
LEAVE YOUR ... WANT FROM ME?" I'M SCARED ... WHAT SHOULD I DO? HELP ME
"YOU HAVE CHOSEN DRUUNA ... HERE WITH YOU ... DON'T BE AFRAID

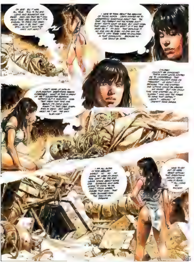

"YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE. YOU ARE PERFUMED YOU. YOU WILL BEAR HIS CHILD THE CHILD OF THE RED-FACE MAN. AND WHEN SOMEONE IS GROWING YOU ... PREGNANT YOU"
WHAT? OH, GOD NO NO"
"DELUNA JUST THIS ONE EFFORT AND YOU WILL BE FREE YOU WILL BE SAVED!
NO, NO, THIS IS ANOTHER NIGHTMARE THIS CAN'T BE TRUE
NO, LEAVE ... I BEG YOU. YOU CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS TO ME ... HELP! I DON'T WANT THIS
NOOOOO AAAAH!!!
"DON'T ... LOOK, DELUNA DON'T LOOK"
HELP ME! HELP ME! AAAAH!
"CLOSE YOUR EYES. HE IS MAKING A PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO TAKE ON A HUMAN FORM AND PERFORM A HUMAN FUNCTION DO YOU UNDERSTAND?" DON'T LET IT TERRIFY YOU DON'T FIGHT HIM.

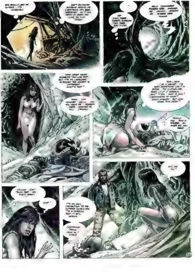

I'M VERY CLOSE TO YOU, NOW. VERY CLOSE!
OH LENNIE ... IS IT YOU ... IS IT YOU?
DELILAH
DEAREST YOU ARE WITH ME AGAIN. YOU CAME BACK!
YES, BUT NOT FOR LONG. THIS REQUIRES AN INCREDIBLE EFFORT ON MY PART. BUT THEN YOU WILL BE FREE.
HELP ME. DON'T SEND ME BACK TO THAT HORRIBLE MONSTER. PLEASE, LENNIE. I WILL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT. ANYTHING. ANYTHING.
YOU ARE WITH ME. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR NOW, DELILAH.
OH, LENNIE, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME ON THE BEACH. YOU LIKED THAT. TAKE ME LIKE THAT IF YOU WISH. TAKE ME.
YES ... I LOVE YOU. YOU ARE SWEET TO HOLD. YOU WANT TO GO BACK THERE, DO YOU?
YES, YES. ON THAT BEACH YOU AND I MADE LOVE ... ME. LENNIE ... LOVE ME. PLEASE.
AAAAA AHH

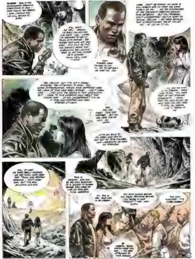

OH LEWIS... THE EARTH, THE SEA, THE SKY... IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL. HOLD ME, HOLD ME TIGHT
DELPHA... DELPHA
COME ON... LET'S GO IN THE WATER. LET'S MAKE LOVE AGAIN IN THAT CLEAR WATER... COME WITH ME...
WAIT, DELPHA!
OH MY GOD, IT'S INCREDIBLE, THIS WATER IS SO WONDERFUL... AH AH AH.

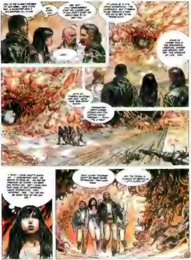

WAIT, DAVIDA!
I HAVE TO BREAK THIS ILLUSION. I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU NOW. IT'S ALL OVER.
WHY, LEWIS, WHY? NO!
WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE. BUT YOU ARE SAFE NOW. IT'S ALL OVER. YOU PASSED THE TEST AND SOMEONE IS HERE TO TAKE YOU AWAY. I CALLED HIM. GOODBYE DAVIDA. REMEMBER MY WORDS. NOW I CAN DIE IN PEACE.
LEWIS. HOW CAN I LIVE WITHOUT YOU. WHAT WILL I DO? DON'T LET YOU GO THIS TIME. LEWIS... LEWIS... NO.
LEWIS WAIT FOR ME NO NO
GOOD BYE, DAVIDA.

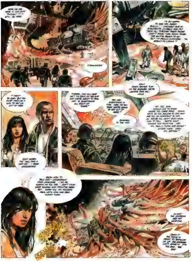

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? AH, IT MUST ALL HAVE BEEN ANOTHER DREAM! AM I GOING TO LIVE IN A WORLD OF ILLUSION FOREVER? BUT IT ALL SEEMED VERY REAL BEFORE THAT MONSTER ARRIVED!
I HOPE HE CAME BACK TO HIS SENSES.

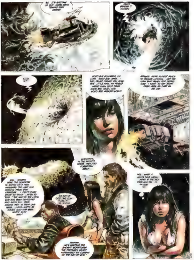

OH GOD. SO IT WAS ALL TRUE. THIS IS THE END. LEVIS AND BOHRSON ARE DEAD. HOW CAN THAT BE? HOW MUCH TIME HAS GONE BY? IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE CRAZY. HOW CAN IT BE THAT I AM STILL ALIVE? AND THAT I HAVE NOT AGED?
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS. LEVIS WANTED ME TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING ABOUT TIME. THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE DON'T EXIST. THAT'S WHAT HE SAID. BUT WHAT COULD THAT MEAN? DID TIME STOP? IF IT DID, THAT MUST BE IT. MY GOD. THAT EXPLAINS IT. NO ONE CAN BE BORN, NO ONE CAN DIE. THAT'S WHY THERE WERE NO CHILDREN IN THAT COMMUNITY. BECAUSE NO ONE COULD BE BORN.
CHILDREN COULDN'T BE CONCEIVED. THAT'S WHAT LEVIS WANTED ME TO UNDERSTAND. THAT MONSTER COULDN'T MAKE ME PREGNANT. HE DIDN'T DO IT BECAUSE TIME HAD STOPPED AND NOTHING COULD BE ALTERED IN ANY WAY. BUT HOW COULD TIME HAVE STOPPED ALL OF A SUDDEN? WHO HAD THE POWER TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN? LEVIS? ABSURD. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
CAN'T COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION. EVERYTHING SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE. WHAT IS THIS IN FRONT OF ME? SOMETHING SEEMING NOTHING BUT A SKELETON. GOD. DOES THAT MEAN THAT TIME HAS BEGUN ITS CYCLE ONCE AGAIN? IN THAT CASE EVERYBODY IS DEAD. BUT WHAT ABOUT ME? AM I THE ONLY SURVIVOR?
I AM ALL ALONE IN THIS ABSURD WORLD. NO. NO. I'M GOING TO LOSE MY MIND. THIS CAN'T BE THE END. LEVIS SPOKE ABOUT SOME ONE. SOMEONE WHO WAS GOING TO COME TO ME. WHO? FROM WHERE? MAYBE THE MAN. THE ONE... THE MAN IN MY DREAMS.
HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. NEVER NOTICED THAT EVERYTHING AROUND HERE WAS IN RUINS. IT ALL LOOKS SO ANCIENT.


SHE SHOULD LEAD ME OUTSIDE... IT'S INCREDIBLE
DON'T RECOGNIZE ANYTHING AROUND ME. EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DESTROYED... AS IF A WRATH OF HEAVEN HAS COME DOWN ON IT
HEY, OVER THERE! THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE RADIO
HELLO, COMMANDER ROGERS HERE. ANSWER ME... ANSWER ME... ROGERS HERE. OVER!
I HAVE NEVER HEARD SOMEONE TALK LIKE THAT. IT'S MY LANGUAGE, BUT THE ACCENT IS DIFFERENT. WHAT'S THAT?
HELLO, COMMANDER. HELLO, CAN YOU HEAR ME? ROGERS HERE. ANSWER ME. WILL... CRACKLE
THIS LOOKS LIKE A HELMET. I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE IT IN BOOKS. THE CLOTHES ARE MADE OUT OF A MATERIAL I DON'T KNOW... WHO IS WILL? COMMANDER OF WHAT? COULD IT BE...? BUT HOW DOES THIS WORK?
KRAAK... WILL. THIS IS ROGERS. ANSWER ME, WILL. OVER
WHO ARE YOU?
DRUNA! DON'T TOUCH THAT! YOU MIGHT BREAK...
WHAT?
IT'S MY ONLY CONNECTION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND IT'S A MIRACLE THAT IT STILL WORKS.
COMMANDER... HEAR ME? ...


ROBBIE. THIS IS THE COMMANDER SPEAKING. EVERYTHING IS OK. HAVE FOUND THE PERSON I WAS LOOKING FOR. WE WILL RETURN TO BASE.
WILL DO!! BE WELL. GRAHAM? WE'VE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR AGES. LISTEN, I'VE MANAGED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH RAMSEY. THE TRUCKER SHIP HAS NOT BEEN HIT. HE'S TOLD ME THAT THE ORGANIC MASS THAT SURROUNDS THE LANDING AREA IS GETTING CLOSER. HE'S SCARED THAT HE'LL LOSE IT SOON.
OK!! ROBBIE, KEEP TALKING TO HIM. I'LL TRY TO GET BACK AS FAST AS I CAN.
COME. DON'T BE AFRAID. MY NAME IS WILLIAMSON AND I'M FROM THE SAME WORLD AS YOU. I AM THE COMMANDER OF THE SPACESHIP ORBITING AROUND THIS ASTEROID. BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HALF OF WHAT I'M SAYING, ORLANA. I AM HERE BECAUSE THAT EXTRAORDINARY BEING CALLED ME. HE LED ME TO YOU.
YOU ARE THE MAN IN MY DREAMS. MADE LOVE TO YOU. YOU WERE PART OF THAT STRANGE COMMUNITY. ... THAT YOU HAD SAVED ME AND NOW YOU ARE HERE. IT STILL ALL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM TO ME.
YES, ORLANA. BUT IT'S NOT A DREAM ANYMORE. PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I SAY. SOME EXTRAORDINARY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED HERE. THE LAWS OF TIME HAVE BEEN ALTERED. I DON'T KNOW HOW ... LIVED WITH THE PEOPLE IN THAT COMMUNITY BUT ... CAME TO THIS ASTEROID ONLY ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? IT'S AS IF TIME HAD STOPPED AND THEN STARTED UP AGAIN.
YES, YOU ARE RIGHT. TIME HAD STOPPED. BUT YOU ARE HERE FOR ME AND I AM HAPPY.
LET'S GO BACK TO MY CREW AND TRY TO GET OUT OF THIS CHAMBER-LIKE LABYRINTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SO... AT LAST! WE WERE REALLY WORRIED. WE ARE FINALLY SAFE HERE. THAT THING HAS STOPPED GROWING. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT'S STILL BLOCKING OUR WAY.
THIS IS ORLANA. SHE MAY BE THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF A COLONY OF HUMAN BEINGS WHO USED TO LIVE ON THIS ARTIFICIAL ASTEROID.
AH! THIS IS HER. SHE WAS IN MY DREAM.
YOU SAID HUMAN BEINGS. YOU MEAN PRIMITIVE BEINGS LIKE THOSE IN OUR "POOL"?? ... SIMPLE.
THE ONLY SURVIVOR? IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.
BE CAREFUL, BARRY. WATCH WHAT YOU SAY. I AM VERY ATTACHED TO THIS WOMAN.


DOC IS THE OLDEST MEMBER OF OUR CREW. HE'S A DOCTOR, A SCIENTIST AND A PHILOSOPHER ALL IN ONE.
HEY, I KNOW YOU!
YES. BUT I ONLY REMEMBERED WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE. IF YOU DIDN'T EXIST WE WOULD HAVE TO INVENT YOU.
LOOK!
IT LOOKS AS IF IT'S DOING SOMETHING. IT'S INCREDIBLE. BUT IT SEEMS TO BE OPENING A WAY FOR US TO GET TO THE "INNER SHIP."
AMAZING. MAYBE THIS IS THE PRIMORDIAL CREATURE, SYNERGY AND ORGANIC MATTER. THE ESSENCE OF LIFE. DNA.
LET'S GO. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT. LET'S TAKE THIS OFFER. QUICK!
COMMANDER! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT'S LETTING US GO THROUGH. THINK... IT'S A TRAP!
I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. I UNDERSTAND NOW. HE WANTED TO SAVE ME. ME AND THE CREATURE HE'S GIVING I AM BEARING WITHIN ME. BUT I KNOW NOW THAT NONE OF THAT HAPPENED. LEWIS TOUCHED HIM. THEN STOPPED. HE'S "NO ONE CAN BE BORN AND NO ONE CAN DIE."
WALK CLOSE TOGETHER. DON'T GO NEAR THOSE TENTACLES. THEY LOOK MEAN.
HEY, THE TUNNEL IS CLOSING UP BEHIND US. LET'S HURRY UP.


HERE WE ARE. HERE IS OUR SHIP, THOUGH IT'S STILL BE HERE
COMMANDER!
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN! REALLY... CHECKED OUR INSTRUMENTS, CLIMBED AND PUT THEM ALL THROUGH THEIR PACES. DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THE SHIP'S READY TO GO. BUT I'M REALLY CONFUSED... I'M AFRAID I'M LOSING IT.
CALM DOWN, RAMSEY. TURN ON THE ENGINES. WE'RE LEAVING THIS HELL HOLE.
IT WON'T BE EASY. BUT YOU MUST FIND US A WAY TO GET US OUT OF HERE.
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT. I KNOW. UNDERSTAND
RAMSEY, CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'M BACK ON THE SHIP AND WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OFF. IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT UP THERE?
YES, SIR. EVERYTHING IS FINE. HOW DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE?
ENGINES TO THE MAX!
HEY YOU, GIRL. WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM... WHICH RACE DO YOU BELONG TO AND WHY ARE YOU SO IMPORTANT TO HIM. AH, MAYBE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO TALK... THAT'S RIGHT. SAVAGE AND PRIMITIVE. ARE YOU REALLY "LOVE AND BONES"? WHERE HAVE I SEEN ... BEFORE?
KNOW HOW TO TALK AND I UNDERSTAND YOUR LANGUAGE... I AM AS HUMAN AS YOU ARE... DON'T KNOW WHAT SAVAGE AND PRIMITIVE MEAN. BUT... WARN YOU, MY FINGERS FEEL LITTLE HOW HUMAN FLESH
OH GOD! THE CONTROLS ARE NOT WORKING!
DAMN IT! THE THING IS ABOUT TO SWALLOW US UP! THE ENGINES CAN'T BEAR IT. IT'S THE END... THE END!


SO... IT'S SPITTING US OUT. WE'RE GOING TOWARD THAT CRATER!
QUICK, BEFORE IT CLOSES!
GOOD BYE SCHAERRA, MY LOVE. GOOD BYE LINDA. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. GOOD BYE LITTLE MAN, MY FRIEND. NEVER KNEW YOUR NAME. GOOD BYE, CRUEL CITY. GOOD BYE AMAZED WORLD!
ROGERS, WE'RE ALMOST READY TO SECURE LANDING. GET THE MAIN SHIP READY FOR DEPARTURE. I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE AS FAST AS WE CAN.
[illegible] IN THE INFINITE SPACE MAN HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT.
WELL, ROGERS, HERE THE COMPUTER IS GIVING US A NEW MESSAGE. THE LAST ONE COMING FROM THAT CREATURE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK. LISTEN TO THIS: "THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD HAS BEEN CONCEIVED AND BORN TO YOU. COME AMONG MEN IN THEIR [illegible] NEED... [illegible] HAPPY BE [illegible] GOD HAS BEEN HAPPY WITH MAN."
THE SON OF GOD? [illegible]
HMMM, HE'S QUOTING THE ANCIENT SCRIPTURES. THE PROPHECY WHICH ANNOUNCED THE COMING OF THE SON OF GOD.
HEY... WHAT A [illegible] WAIT... IF THE [illegible] HAD ME... OH MY GOD NO
THE END

BRINGING YOU TH

FRANK
In The River

FRANK IN THE RIVER

by Jim Woodring
WITH MONTGOMERY WART
by Mark Martin

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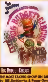

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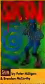

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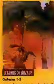

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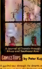

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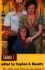

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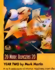

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YEAR TWO by Mark Martin

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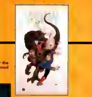

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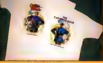

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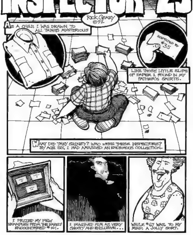
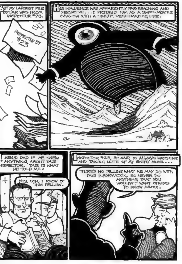
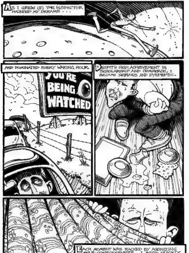
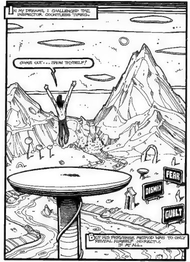
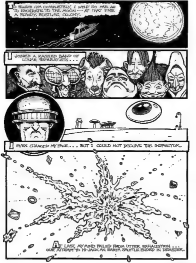
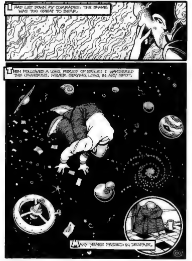

RICK GEARY ©72
AS A CHILD, I WAS DRAWN TO ALL THINGS MYSTERIOUS
INSPECTED BY #35
LIKE THOSE LITTLE SLIPS OF PAPER I FOUND IN MY FATHER'S SHIRTS.
WHAT DID THEY SIGNIFY? WHO WERE THESE INSPECTORS? BY AGE SIX, I HAD AMASSED AN ENORMOUS COLLECTION.
I PRIZED MY FEW EXAMPLES FROM THE RARELY ENCOUNTERED #101.
I IMAGINED HIM AS VERY SNOOTY AND EXCLUSIVE...
WHILE #67 WAS, TO MY MIND, A JOLLY SORT.

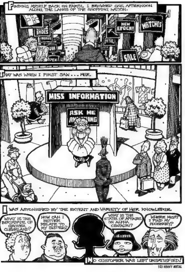

BUT MY LARGEST PILE BY FAR WAS FROM INSPECTOR #23.
INSPECTED BY #23
HIS INFLUENCE WAS APPARENTLY FAR-REACHING AND PERVASIVE . . . I PICTURED HIM AS A SWIFT-MOVING SHADOW WITH A SINGLE PENETRATING EYE.
I ASKED DAD IF HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS INSPECTOR. THIS IS WHAT HE TOLD ME:
YES, SON, I KNOW OF THIS FELLOW.
INSPECTOR #23, HE SAID, IS ALWAYS WATCHING AND TAKING NOTE OF MY EVERY MOVE . . .
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE MAY DO WITH THIS INFORMATION, SO NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT.

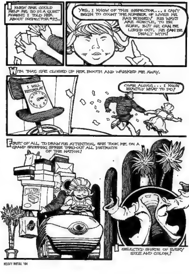

AS I GREW UP, THE INSPECTOR HAUNTED MY DREAMS . . .
AND DOMINATED EVERY WAKING HOUR.
YOU'RE BEING WATCHED
DESPITE HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMERCE, I BECAME NERVOUS AND DYSPEPTIC.
EACH MOMENT WAS RACKED BY AGONIZING SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS. I AGED QUICKLY.

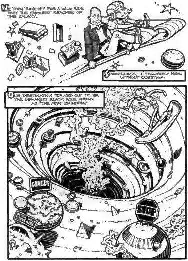

IN MY DREAMS, I CHALLENGED THE INSPECTOR COUNTLESS TIMES.
COME OUT... SHOW THYSELF!
FEAR
DISMAY
GUILT
BUT HIS PERVERSE METHOD WAS TO ONLY REVEAL HIMSELF INDIRECTLY, IF AT ALL.

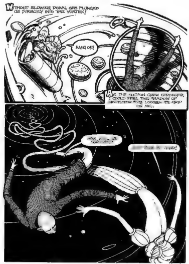

TO ELUDE HIM COMPLETELY, I WENT SO FAR AS TO EMIGRATE TO THE MOON — AT THAT TIME A ROWDY, BUSTLING COLONY.
I JOINED A RAGGED BAND OF LUNAR SEPARATISTS . . .
I EVEN CHANGED MY FACE . . . BUT I COULD NOT DECEIVE THE INSPECTOR.
AT LAST, MY MIND FAILED FROM UTTER EXHAUSTION . . . OUR ATTEMPT TO HI-JACK AN EARTH SHUTTLE ENDED IN DISASTER.

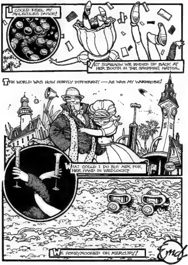

I HAD LET DOWN MY COMRADES. THE SHAME WAS TOO GREAT TO BEAR.
THEN FOLLOWED A LONG PERIOD OF EXILE: I WANDERED THE UNIVERSE, NEVER STAYING LONG IN ANY SPOT.
MANY YEARS PASSED IN DESPAIR.


FINDING MYSELF BACK ON EARTH, I BROWSED ONE AFTERNOON ALONG THE LANES OF THE SHOPPING NATION.
SHOES
NEW EPOCH!
WATCHES
SALE
OPEN
THAT WAS WHEN I FIRST SAW . . . HER.
MISS INFORMATION
ASK ME ANYTHING
I WAS ASTONISHED BY THE EXTENT AND VARIETY OF HER KNOWLEDGE.
WHAT IS THE BIRTHDATE OF GROVER CLEVELAND?
HOW CAN I BETTER RELATE TO MY SISTER?
WHAT IS THE STATE OF AFFAIRS ON ALPHA CENTAURI?
WHERE MIGHT I FIND MY HOUSEKEY?
NO CUSTOMER WAS LEFT UNSATISFIED!


I KNEW SHE COULD HELP ME, SO IN A QUIET MOMENT, I TOLD HER ABOUT INSPECTOR #23.
YES, I KNOW OF THIS INSPECTOR... I CAN'T BEGIN TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF LIVES HE HAS RUINED! HIS WAYS ARE SUBTLE, TO BE SURE, BUT HE CAN BE LURED OUT. HE CAN BE DEALT WITH!
WITH THAT, SHE CLOSED UP HER BOOTH AND WHISKED ME AWAY.
I WILL RETURN AT
COME ALONG... I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO!
FIRST OF ALL, TO DRAW HIS ATTENTION, SHE TOOK ME ON A GRAND SHOPPING SPREE THRU-OUT ALL DISTRICTS OF THE NATION!
SELECTED SHIRTS OF EVERY SIZE AND COLOR!


WE THEN TOOK OFF FOR A WILD RIDE PAST THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE GALAXY.
SPEECHLESS, I FOLLOWED HER WITHOUT QUESTION.
OUR DESTINATION TURNED OUT TO BE THE INFAMOUS BLACK HOLE KNOWN AS "THE MEAT GRINDER."
DANGER
BLACK HOLE SOUVENIRS
STOP


WITHOUT SLOWING DOWN, SHE PLUNGED US DIRECTLY INTO THE VORTEX!
HANG ON!
AS THE SUCTION GREW STRONGER, I COULD FEEL THE SHADOW OF INSPECTOR #23 LOOSEN ITS GRIP ON ME.
HOW WILL WE SURVIVE?!
JUST GIVE A HAND!


I COULD FEEL MY MOLECULES DANCE!
YET SOMEHOW WE ENDED UP BACK AT HER BOOTH IN THE SHOPPING NATION.
THE WORLD WAS NOW SUBTLY DIFFERENT — AS WAS MY WARDROBE!
OUT
WHAT COULD I DO BUT ASK FOR HER HAND IN WEDLOCK?
WE HONEYMOONED ON MERCURY!
End

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☐ **AUGUST 1980**/Bilal & Christin, interview with Moebius, and more
☐ **APRIL 1981**/Juan Gimenez, Caza, and Harry North
☐ **MAY 1981**/William S. Burroughs on [illegible]
☐ **JUNE 1981**/Corben [illegible]
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☐ **JULY 1983**/Gaetano Liberatore's "Ranxerox" premiere
☐ **AUGUST 1983**/Arno & Jodorowsky, and Captain Beefheart interviewed

☐ **SEPTEMBER 1983**/Interview with Francis Ford Coppola and Ranxerox [illegible]
☐ **OCTOBER 1983**/Timothy Leary, Bilal, and Pepe Moreno
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☐ **JULY 1984**/John Cleese interviewed, and Jeronaton
☐ **AUGUST 1984**/Paul Kirchner, Starship Captain, and Jeronaton
☐ **SEPTEMBER 1984**/Second Annual Music Video Awards, and David Cronenberg interviewed
☐ **OCTOBER 1984**/John Sayles interviewed, Caza, and Bilal
☐ **NOVEMBER 1984**/John Waters interviewed, Paul Kirchner, and Schuiten
☐ **DECEMBER 1984**/Federico Fellini interviewed, Milo Manara, and Boris Vallejo
☐ **JANUARY 1985**/Liberatore, Bernet's "Marlowesque," and Daniel Torres
☐ **FEBRUARY 1985**/Jack Davis interviewed, Russell Mulcahy, and Torres
☐ **MARCH 1985**/Moreno's "Rebel," Bilal & Christin, and Schuiten
☐ **APRIL 1985**/Eighth anniversary issue! Moreno, Corben, and Swarte
☐ **MAY 1985**/Liberatore cover, Corben, and Manara
☐ **JUNE 1985**/Charles Burns, Massimo Olmi, and Hein [illegible]
☐ **JULY 1985**/George Miller interviewed, Olivia, and Segar
☐ **AUGUST 1985**/Frank Frazetta interviewed, Juan Gimenez, and Torres
☐ **SEPTEMBER 1985**/Kierkegaard cover, Rock Opera, [illegible]
☐ **OCTOBER 1985**/Olivia, Bruce Abbey, and Jodorowsky & Cadelo
☐ **NOVEMBER 1985**/Boris Vallejo, Paul Kirchner, and John Findley
☐ **DECEMBER 1985**/Last of the monthly issues: Caza, Swarte, and Kierkegaard
☐ **WINTER 1986**/112 spectacular pages: Sever, Prado, Torres, and Olivia
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☐ **SUMMER 1986**/San Serpents, Das Pastoras, and more
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☐ **SPRING 1987**/Juan Gimenez's apocalyptic "Garbage," Daniel Torres, and others
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☐ **FALL 1987**/Sexy Olivia cover! Segrelles, Bob Geary, Moebius, Torres, and more!
☐ **FALL 1988**/Olivia on the cover and Crepax's "Valentina" inside!
☐ **WINTER 1989**/Sever's "Shanghai Express Affair," Segura and Ortiz's "Hombre," and "Dieter Lumpen"!
☐ **MARCH 1989**/Juan Gimenez's "Leo Roa," Prado, Hoshiberta et al.
☐ **MAY 1989**/The true women of the planet Zara, Prado's "Manuel Montano," Daniel Torres, Peter Rogers, and Olivia!
☐ **JULY 1989**/"Dieter Lumpen," Segura and Ortiz, J. M. Beroy
☐ **SEPTEMBER 1989**/Daniel Torres, Montanera, Manuel Montano, and more!
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☐ **MAY 1990**/Victor Torres, [illegible] [illegible] "The Waters of DeadMoon"
☐ **JULY 1990**/H. R. Giger and Daniel Torres
☐ **SEPTEMBER 1990**/History Kunstwerk, Second installment of "The Waters of DeadMoon"
☐ **NOVEMBER 1990**/Frank Frazetta interviewed
☐ **JANUARY 1991**/Melk and Bezzy's "Slaine."
☐ **MARCH 1991**/Segura and Ortiz, Miguel Prado!
☐ **MAY 1991**/Daniel Torres, More "Dead Moon"!
☐ **JULY 1991**/Sebastien Brothers, "Burton & Cyb," Olivia cover!
☐ **SEPTEMBER 1991**/More "DeadMoon," Torres!
☐ **NOVEMBER 1991**/"Adventures of Tristan Karma," "Burton & Cyb"!
☐ **JANUARY 1992**/Richard Corben, "Rogul Zhardane"!
☐ **MARCH 1992**/"Tolgoato"! "Marooci"! "The Jungle"!
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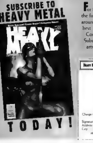

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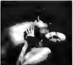

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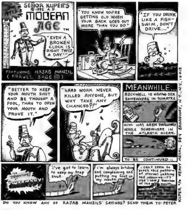
StripTease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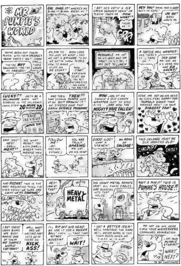
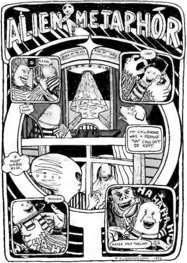
"EVEN A BROKEN CLOCK IS RIGHT TWICE A DAY'"
FEATURING RAJAB MANZIL (TRAVEL SAGE ®)
"YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN YOUR BACK GOES OUT MORE THAN YOU DO"
"IF YOU DRINK LIKE A FISH— SWIM, DON'T DRIVE..."
"BETTER TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND BE THOUGHT A FOOL, THAN TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND PROVE IT."
"HARD WORK NEVER KILLED ANYONE, BUT WHY TAKE ANY CHANCES?!"
MEANWHILE...
ROCKWELL IS HAVING SEX SOMEWHERE IN SUMATRA.
KIWI HAS BEEN SWALLOWED WHOLE SOMEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
TO BE CONTINUED...
THE ADVENTURES OF WORMBOY!
i've got to learn to keep my trap shut
i'm always bitching and complaining and putting my foot in my mouth
i can't seem to break this pattern of eternal yakking and jabbering—it's like i have diarrhea of the mouth
DO YOU KNOW ANY OF RAJAB MANZILS' SAYINGS? SEND THEM TO: PETER KUPER c/o HEAVY METAL, 584 BROADWAY, N.Y., N.Y., 10012

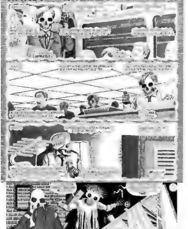

MR PUMPIE'S WORLD
GOL DANG IT! WHERE'S MY BLANK-LY BLANK ASSIST'NT?
I BET HE'S EATIN' A ICE CREAM SAMWICH AGAIN! OR PLAYIN' CRAPS OR HOW WHAT'?
THERE HE IS
GRR
HEY YOU! DRAG YER FLABBY BUTT IN HERE!
UH OH! BOSS WANTS ME
YOU'VE BEEN OUT THERE PLAYIN WITH THEM SAUSAGES AGAIN HAVEN'T YOU? I KIN SMELL THESE HANDS
THEY'RE NOT SAUSAGES THEY'RE MY FRIENDS!
OH, FOR TH— NOW LOOK YOU JUST DO WHAT I SAY WE GOT A EPISODE TO DO WE GOTTA SHOW PEOPLE HOW TO MAKE STUFF AN DO STUFF!
NOW START EXPLAININ STUFF AN YOU ACT INTERESTED YOU KNOW THE ROUTINE
MEANWHILE MR HAT ON HIS HEAD AND MR "BREE" [illegible] ARE OUT TO LUNCH
A TOOTSIE ROLL WRAPPER! AND THERE'S [illegible] ON!
DOG GONE MR HAT ON HIS HEAD YOU ARE SO LUCKY!
LUCKY?? I USETA BE A MILLIONAIRE WHEN I WAS STARRING IN THE HILARIOUS COMIC STRIP 20 HUGE [illegible] 20
RAVE REVIEWS
WOWS 'EM
AND THEN THEN!!! THAT STINKIN PUMPIE JUST UP AN QUIT DRAWIN' IT AN' STARTED DOIN' THAT DAMN SCIENCE PROGRAM!
NOW LOOK AT ME CHEWIN' A OLD CANDY WRAPPER JUST TO STAY ALIVE LORD HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN!
GOSH, MR HAT-ON-HIS-HEAD YOU EVEN FEEL SORRY FOR YOURSELF BIGGER THAN AVERAGE MEN! I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN!
SNIF SNIF! HEY! I SMELL MEAT!!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? YOU EVEN SMELL BIGGER THAN AVERAGE MEN.
FOLLOW ME! (BUT KEEP YOUR DISTANCE)
YOU ARE TRULY AMAZING MR HAT ON HIS HEAD!
GOOD GOD! WHAT A STENCH!
AN ARMY OF SAUSAGE!
THIS SAUSAGE MUST BE SIX MONTHS OLD!
CHOMP!
CHOMP!
AND FILTHY! THIS IS THE MOST DISGUSTING THING I'VE EVER EATEN! WE SURE ARE LUCKY WE'RE STARVING!
GLOM!
CHEW!
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!
HEAVY METAL
THE HEAVY METAL REMOTE VAN! ALL THESE CABLES ARE RUNNING INTO THAT HOUSE
WAIT A MINIT! THIS IS PUMPIE'S HOUSE!!
I BET THOSE LOUSY BUMS ARE BUSY MAKIN' ONE OF THEM MR PUMPIE'S WORLD CARTOONS!
WELL WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO IN THERE AN KICK ASS!
I'LL RIP OFF HIS HEAD AN' USE IT FOR A SOCCER BALL! THEN I'LL TAKE THAT NITWIT ASSISTIN' AN—
NO!! WAIT!
I GOT A BETTER IDEA! WE'LL SABOTAGE THE SHOW HE'LL NEVER WORK IN THIS TOWN AGAIN WHEN WE FINISH WITH HIM!
GRRR
MR HAT ON HIS HEAD EVEN YOUR WICKEDNESS COMMANDS ADMIRATION
?
I AM YOUR HUMBLE STUDENT!
WHAT NEXT?
??
TO BE CONTINUED

[illegible] HEAVY METAL


ALIEN METAPHOR
BORN OF ALIEN
AND OF APE
PLEASE
GOD DAMN
MY CHILDHOOD WAS A PROMISE THAT COULDN'T BE KEPT
I MUST WARN HIM.
TICKLING
HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
PLEASE STOP TICKLING
J CUNNINGHAM 1972

RANDY THE SKELETUN

WRITTEN BY IAN CARNEY
DRAWN BY AIDAN POTTS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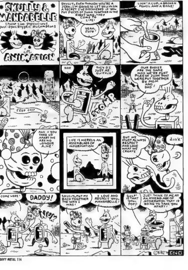
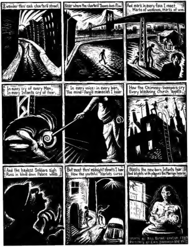
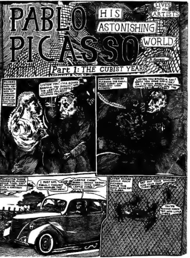

SKULLY & MANDABELLE
these two precocious post-apocalyptic automatons
in
ANIMATION
SKULLY, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A JERK, I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON A SECRET I'VE DISCOVERED. IF YOU PUT PIECES OF JUNK TOGETHER IN THE RIGHT WAY, THEY COME TO LIFE!
YEAH, SURE!
LOOK! A CUP, A BROKEN PENCIL AND A BONE!
EEEP EEEP
AWK
THEY DIE JUST AS QUICKLY!
STOMP
OUR BODIES ARE THE SAME WAY. WE'RE JUST PILES OF JUNK THAT WERE PUT TOGETHER BY MOM AND DAD!
AND IF YOU TAKE US APART WE ARE NO LONGER ALIVE!
LIFE IS MERELY AN ASSEMBLAGE OF INFORMATION
BUT WE MUST ALWAYS RESPECT AND LOVE WHAT WE CREATE
dork!
COME HERE!
DADDY!
NUK
SKULLY, PUT ME BACK TOGETHER THE WAY I WAS!
I LOVE AND RESPECT YOU, MANDABELLE!
CREAK
GULP! IS THAT YOU, POP?
JUST THINK OF ME AS AN ASSEMBLAGE OF INFORMATION THAT IS GOING TO TAKE YOU APART!
©KAZ
END


I wander thro' each charter'd street,
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow,
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.
In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forg'd manacles I hear
How the Chimney-sweepers cry
Every blackning Church appalls,
And the hapless Soldiers sigh
Runs in blood down Palace walls
But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born Infants tear
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse
WORDS BY BILL BLAKE LONDON 1792
PICTURES BY ERIC DROOKER NY


PABLO PICASSO
HIS ASTONISHING WORLD
LIVES of the ARTISTS
P. Bayer
Part 1: THE CUBIST YEARS
PICASSO WOULD GET INTO ARGUMENTS WITH AN ORDINARY CLASSICAL PIECE OF STATUARY THAT WAS [illegible]
LISTEN YOU! I'M-A GONNA BREAK-A YOU DOWN! INTO THE LEETLE CUBES... UNLESS YOU QUIT FOLLOWIN' ME!
ANOTHER PROBLEM PLAGUING THE SMALL, NEW CUBIST WAS FREQUENT LION ATTACKS
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
LISTEN YOU STUPID-A CAT! GETTA YOU PAWS OFF-A ME! OR I GONNA BREAK-A YOU DOWN! KNOCK-A YOU DOWN INTO THE LEETLE CUBES!
FOLLOWING THESE INCIDENTS, PICASSO WOULD "COOL OFF" BY DRIVING AROUND WITH A CARTOON DUCK.
I MUST SAY, PABLO, I THOUGHT YOU HANDLED THAT VERY WELL!
...LEETLE CUBES! GONNA... GONNA KNOCK... BREAK... INTO CUBES... LEETLE CUBES!
LATER FAIRIES WOULD ROCK PICASSO WHILE THE DUCK SANG HIM TO SLEEP.
GET OUT YOUR BRUSHES AND YOUR PAINT TUBES...
YOU'RE GONNA KNOCK 'EM INTO LITTLE CUBES!

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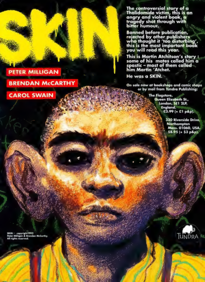
Visa # ____________ Exp. date ____

Signature ____________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